Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Sablan finally begins tenure as PSS Commissioner. PAGE 2

Hopwood is accredited for three more years. PAGE 3

CUC total liabilities: $215.5M

'CUC basically bankrupt'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of March 31 this year, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s total assets was at $129.9 million, but its total liabilities was a staggering $215.5 million, according to the latest CUC statements of net deficiency.

Pangelinan

In citing the CUC statements, Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan asked if the legality of CUC filing for bank- *See CUC on Page 4*

Babauta: Fitial's disaster declaration found lawful

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta disclosed yesterday that the House's legal counsel has come out with an opinion finding Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's declaration of a state of disaster emergency lawful.

Babauta

Babauta said an internal memorandum from the House's legal counsel *See BABAUTA on Page 4*

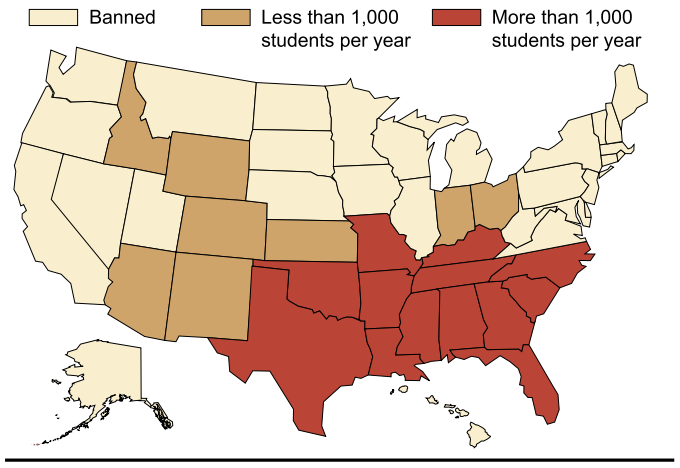
The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Kukui* while docked at the Apra Harbor port in Guam. *Kukui* is a 225-foot Juniper class buoy tender that is homeported in Honolulu, Hawaii. LCDR Steven Matadobra is the Commanding Officer of Cutter *Kukui*.

U.S. COAST GUARD

Student beatings highest in the South

Corporal punishment is legal in 21 states and is most prevalent in Southern states. It typically takes form of "padding," during which an administrator or teacher hits a child repeatedly on the buttocks with a wooden board.

Number of students receiving corporal punishment, school year 2006-2007



SOURCE: Human Rights Watch; American Civil Liberties Union AP

Study finds minorities are more likely to be paddled

By LIBBY QUAID
AP EDUCATION WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Paddlings, swats, licks. A quarter of a million schoolchildren got them last year—and blacks, American Indians and kids with disabilities got a dispro- *See STUDY on Page 4*

AP

Map shows number of students receiving corporal punishment, by state, school year 2006-2007.

Three vessels caught fishing illegally in NMI's EEZ

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Coast Guard recently caught three foreign fishing vessels operating illegally in the Northern Mariana Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone.

On Aug. 12, a long-range patrol aircraft from the Hawaiian Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point discovered five Chinese Taipei longline vessels actively fishing within the EEZ.

A fourth was transiting and a fifth was loitering, said Coast Guard Lt. Commander Gina Freeman.

The positions of the vessels were relayed to Coast Guard Cutter *Kukui*, which was sent out in search of the vessels, Freeman said. *See THREE on Page 4*

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree with the governor's reasons in his decision to declare a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Obama VP
Barack Obama's newly minted running mate will join the Democratic hopeful Saturday at an Illinois rally.
NATION...Page 14

New Clashes
Muslim rebels clashed anew with Philippine troops Wednesday, wounding one soldier.
ASIA...Page 15

Algeria Attack
A suicide bomber drove a car full of explosives into an Algerian police academy, killing at least 43.
WORLD...Page 16

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Local

KRISTI EATON
New PSS Commissioner Rita Sablan works in her office yesterday, her first day on the job.

Sablan finally begins tenure as PSS Commissioner

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rita Sablan's first day as the Public School System Commissioner of Education was jam-packed.

Sablan started Wednesday with back-to-back meetings with PSS staff, and the Board of Education and representatives from the U.S. Department of Education in the morning, followed by a teleconference call and more meetings in the afternoon.

"The most pleasant part was meeting with the staff," she said.

Sablan is meeting with the principals from the various schools today.

"I hope to share goals and needs to facilitate and deliver student requirements and student safety," she said.

On Saturday, Sablan will discuss her ideas and goals for PSS with the Board of Education, she said.

"I would like to offer them my ideas on how we can improve our schools," she said.

She declined to give details about her plans before discussing them with the Board.

Working with the Board should be a positive experience, she said.

"During the interview process, I felt really happy about the composition of the Board in terms of the students' needs and operations," she said.

Sablan said she plans to visit the individual schools next week to get a better understanding of where each school stands and how they are doing.

"Students come first," she said. "It's important to make sure we meet the needs for students to be competitive, not just in the Commonwealth, but the States also," she said.

The Board of Education named Sablan PSS Commissioner last week over Ambrose Bennett. The BOE asked David Borja to resign as commissioner in June.

Sablan said she has dismissed a lawsuit she filed against the Board and several former members in 2006 after Borja was named commissioner over her.

US Navy seeks local building contractors

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The U.S. Navy is seeking local contractors to design and construct military installations that will support the planned military buildup in Guam, its facilities engineering arm said in a recently issued notice.

The Aug. 6 release, issued by the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command, points to a need for contractors—only small businesses—to design and build wharfs and piers, airplane hangars, medical clinics, office buildings and dormitories, among other projects. Most of these plans are in Hawaii, the CNMI and Guam, it notes. The notice, it adds, is intended to determine the level of interest local contractors have in working on the buildup.

The notice comes soon after a conference on Saipan with the Joint Guam Program Office and local officials where talks began on the prospective environmental impact of the buildup. Planners for the project have already crafted a draft environmental impact study for it.

Contractors interested the project are encouraged to answer a market survey provided at www.neco.navfac.mil before Sept. 15. The survey, it notes, is for planning purposes only and will not serve as the basis for awarding a contract. As of press time, however, the survey was still unavailable for download at the Web site.

Guam is now preparing for the relocation of an estimated 8,000 U.S. service personnel and their 9,000 family members from Okinawa, Japan, to the island. The move will require the construction of port infrastructure for naval ships and scores of new building projects to support military operations and staff.

DEQ brigade eyes Wing Beach

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Wing Beach on Saturday, Sept. 6.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet up with brigade members at Wing Beach at 8am.

Volunteers will clean until 10am, break for drinks, then continue if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

"This is a cleanup that should not be missed, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and 'Pick It Up!' Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy," DEQ said in a statement.

Last month, volunteers removed debris from Makaka Beach. The last time Wing Beach was selected as a brigade location was September 2007.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Attention Certified Teachers

Changchun American International School is an IBO World School located in NE China. We currently need two professional teachers; a **1st grade classroom teacher** and a **high school level English/Language Arts teacher**. We also need one **Librarian/ESL teacher**. CAIS offers an excellent employment package including free housing, health insurance and competitive salary.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Thursday, August 21, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I **PRELIMINARIES**
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II **CONSULTANT REPORTS**
- Investment Consultant Reports
  - Flash Reports – July 2008
  - APAFS Conference
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Legal Counsel Reports*
  - Home Loan Program Matters
  - APLE 501
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – June 2008

III **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
- Office Space Matters

IV **OLD BUSINESS**
- Tinian Public Market

V **NEW BUSINESS**
- Employment/Independent Contracts
- FY 2009-2010 Independent Audit RFP
- IFEBP: International & Emerging Markets

VI **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII **MISCELLANEOUS**

VIII **ADJOURNMENT**

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

POSTPONED

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Hopwood accredited for three more years

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Western Association of School and Colleges has extended Hopwood Jr. High School's accreditation through 2011.

Hopwood will be eligible for six-year accreditation in 2011.

"We've had positive results," acting principal Christina Masga said. "We're really happy to see the new school goals and how it has shaped and further improved our data."

Masga said the WASC committee members were especially impressed by the parental support.

"A lot of parents came in and spent time with the teachers and they had a short dinner," she said. "They really enjoyed the parents' company."

The main hurdle the school continues to face is a lack of funding, Masga said.

"A lot of worries were about money and how we could do what we needed to do," she said.

The parents have been very supportive, she added, giving the school tax credits to use.

Even with the financial struggles, the school strives to improve the curriculum every year and keep expectations high, she said.

Masga said school officials have followed three criteria to make sure the school does not fall back into a period of probation, as it did in the 1990s: accountability; keeping records of student data; and retaining teachers.

"Back then there was a lot of turnover," she said. "Teachers were not happy. Students and parents were not happy."

Although parents have been supportive, Masga said she always invites more parent involvement.

"Imagine, we had 1,200 kids and if we could get parents involved, then we wouldn't need any other support. We have everything else, we just need the parents," she added.

HOPWOOD SCHEDULE

Hopwood Jr. High School announced the following significant dates:

■ Sept. 2, Tuesday All Hopwood teachers and staff will report to work on time

■ Sept. 8, Monday All students report to school, first day of classes

■ Aug. 20, Friday Last day to accept late registration

■ Sept. 11, Thursday Re-open for late registration

All students will receive their class schedule from their 1st period class and homeroom teacher. Students and parents are welcome to the Hopwood campus the weekend prior to Sept. 8, to find out in advance the child's first period. Students must be ready, even on the first day, with notebooks and pens/pencils.

SY 2008-09 Class/Bell Schedule

Warning Bell	7:45
1st period	7:50-8:40
2nd period	8:42-9:32
Break	9:32-9:42
3rd period	9:44-10:34
4th period	10:36-11:26
Lunch	11:26-12:24
5th period	12:26-1:16
6th period	1:18-2:08
7th period	2:10-3:00

KRISTI EATON

Crewmembers of the USS *Mustin* pose with Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela yesterday. The crewmembers took part in cleaning the airport bunker.

USS *Mustin* crew cleans up bunker

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Approximately 20 personnel from the USS *Mustin* decided to forgo scuba diving and the beach Wednesday and devoted their time to cleaning the airport bunker.

More than 300 officers and crewmembers from the Mustin are enjoying a few days off on Saipan. The group leaves Friday.

"We've had a great time. The hospitality has been fabulous," Commander James Jones said.

Yesterday, about 20 crewmembers spent their day cleaning and mowing the grass around the bunker.

"We really feel the least we can do is participate in efforts like this," Jones said.

Jones said several crewmembers who visited Saipan in the past liked the island and recommended returning for their liberty time.

"When the opportunity presented itself, folks thought it would be a good idea to stop here," he added.

Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela took part in the cleanup with the crew yesterday.

"I'm very happy and glad they came to Saipan," he said.

Tudela said he is grateful that the crew cut the grass surrounding the bunker because it was growing too high.

"They worked really hard," he said. "There was no fooling around between 8am and 2pm."

Jones said many of the crewmembers are staying in hotels and scuba diving in their free time.

"They're having a lot of fun," he added.

The VFW set up the activities for the crew during their week on island.

The USS *Mustin* is stationed in Yokosuka, Japan. The ship was sent to the coast of Myanmar from May 13 to June 5 to provide aid for the citizens after the cyclone. But when the Myanmar government did not allow outside aid for several weeks, the *Mustin* was placed back on its original schedule.

Thank You ★ Si Yu'us Ma'ase ★ Olomwaay

KICK-OFF RALLY!

The Committee to Elect Senator Luis Palacios Crisostimo for the CNMI's Non-Voting Delegate to the U.S. Congress cordially requests your presence to our upcoming Kick-Off Rally slated for this Friday at:

PLACE: ANGANDO Building (Lower Navy Hill, behind Happy Market)
DATE: AUGUST 22, 2008 (Friday) TIME: 6:30PM

At this gathering, the senator will unveil his platform as well as the opportunity to meet personally with you, the voters, to thank you for your continued support and vote of confidence.

Join us for an evening of good food, entertainment, and relaxation.

/s/ Pete S. Arriola
Chairman

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SIRLOIN STEAK (8oz/220g) $20.00
SIRLOIN STEAK (12oz/330g) $30.00
TENDERLOIN STEAK
Hand Cut, Tender Juicy Certified Angus Beef, Charcoal Grilled Tenderloin Steak Served on Sizzling Plate.
TENDERLOIN STEAK (8oz/220g) $23.00
TENDERLOIN STEAK (12oz/330g) $34.00
RIBEYE STEAK
Hand cut, Tender Juicy Certified Angus Beef, Charcoal Grilled Ribeye.
RIBEYE STEAK (12oz/330g) $29.00
RIBEYE STEAK (16oz/450g) $38.00
RIBEYE STEAK (18oz/500g) $43.00
T-BONE STEAK
Tender & Juicy, Certified Angus Beef T-Bone Steak, Charcoal Broiled.
T-BONE STEAK (14oz/390g) $31.00
T-BONE STEAK (18oz/500g) $38.00
COWBOY STEAK
Country House Original, Certified Angus Beef, Charcoal Broiled Bone in Ribeye.
COWBOY STEAK (18oz/500g) $40.00
MEAT DISHES
TERIYAKI STEAK (8oz/220g) $20.50
Charcoal Broiled, Sliced Sirloin Steak w/Teriyaki Sauce.
HAMBURGER STEAK (8oz/220g) $12.00
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Tinian student to attend national Democratic, GOP conventions

Marisa D. Untalan, an 11th grader at the Tinian Jr. & Sr. High School, has been honored with a full scholarship from the Junior Statesmen Foundation to attend the 2008 Democratic Presidential Symposium, which will be held in Denver, Colorado from Aug. 24 to 29, during the Democratic National Convention, and the 2008 Republican Presidential Symposium, to be held in St. Paul, Minnesota from Aug. 31 to Sept. 5,2008, during the Republican National Convention.

Untalan has just recently returned from the Junior Statesmen Foundation Stanford Summer School Program in July, where she spent five intense weeks participating in college level courses: A.P. U.S. Government & Politics, and Honors Speech Communication.

While attending the Stanford Summer School Program, Untalan learned of the upcoming Presidential Symposium. The JSA Territorial Director informed the students that the Foundation would grant each Territorial District (CNMI, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa) one full scholarship to attend this event. Knowing that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, Untalan filled out the application and submitted the required essay to the JSA Foundation. She then turned her attention to her final exams and the graduation ceremonies at Stanford, and then returned home to Tinian, where to her surprise she was informed of her selection to represent the CNMI at this prestigious event.

While attending these events, Untalan hopes to learn more about what both presidential candidates are proposing for the country, to expand her views on political issues facing the United States, to experience the political process firsthand, and to be a witness to history, especially since this is the first time the CNMI is invited by JSA to join the events.

Additionally, this is the first time since 1928 when neither an incumbent president nor an incumbent vice-president is seeking the nomination for office, "which boosts up my excitement even more for the symposiums."

Untalan admits that her five weeks at Stanford improved her writing and forensic skills that she believes assisted in her receiving this scholarship.

Untalan acknowledged Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas for his continued support and assistance to the students of Tinian, "Mayor San Nicolas always supports educational programs. He has sponsored so many different activities this year, including helping me attend Stanford Summer School and helping my classmate, Edward Hofschneider, attend Georgetown Summer School. Thank you so much Mayor San Nicolas, your help and guidance means so much to all of us students here in Tinian."

Untalan also gives credit to her teachers and administration of the Tinian Jr. and Sr. High School "My teachers helped me in preparing for the challenge of facing Stanford professors." "Special thanks to Mrs. Long for all her help, you're the best!"

Untalan also gives thanks to her father, John, and stepmother Gladyliza Untalan for always being there for her.

Marisa is the eldest of six children. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, second from right, presents Marisa Untalan with monetary assistance for her upcoming trip to the RNC and DNC. Others in picture are Tinian Jr. & Sr. High School Principal Eric C. San Nicolas, left, and Marisa's father John E. Untalan.

STUDY

From Page 1

portionate share of the punishment, according to a study by a human rights group.

Even little kids can be paddled. Heather Porter, who lives in Crockett, Texas, was startled to hear her little boy, then 3, say he'd been spanked at school. Porter was never told, despite a policy at the public preschool that parents be notified.

"We were pretty ticked off, to say the least. The reason he got paddled was because he was untying his shoes and playing with the air conditioner thermostat," Porter said. "He was being a 3-year-old."

For the study, which was being released Wednesday, Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union used Education Department data to show that, while paddling has been declining, racial disparity persists. Researchers also interviewed students, parents and school personnel in Texas and Mississippi, states that account for 40 percent of the 223,190 kids who were paddled at least once in the 2006-2007 school year.

Porter could have filled out a form telling the school not to paddle her son, if only she had realized he might be paddled. Yet many parents find that such forms are ignored, the study said.

Widespread paddling can make it unlikely that forms will be checked. A teacher interviewed by Human Rights Watch, Tiffany Bartlett, said that when she taught in the Mississippi Delta, the policy was to lock the classroom doors when the bell rang, leaving stragglers to be paddled by an administrator patrolling the hallways. Bartlett now is a school teacher in Austin, Texas.

And even if schools make a mistake, they are unlikely to face lawsuits. In places where corporal punishment is allowed, teachers and principals generally have legal immunity from assault laws, the study said. "One of the things we've seen over and over again is that parents have difficulty getting redress, if a child is paddled and severely injured, or paddled in violation of parents' wishes," said Alice Farmer, the study's author.

A majority of states have outlawed it, but corporal punishment remains widespread across the South. Behind Texas and Mississippi were Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Florida and Missouri.

African American students are more than twice as likely to be paddled. The disparity persists even in places with large black populations, the study found. Similarly, Native Americans were more than twice as likely to be paddled, the study found. The study also found: -In states where paddling is most common, black girls were paddled more than twice as often as white girls. -Boys are three times as likely to be paddled as girls.

-Special education kids were more likely to be paddled.

More than 100 countries worldwide have banned paddling in schools, including all of Europe, Farmer said. "International human rights law puts a pretty strong prohibition on corporal punishment," she said.

In rural Drew, Miss., Nickolaus Luckett still remembers the paddlings he got in fifth and seventh grades. One happened when he called a teacher by her first name, the other when a classmate said, wrongly, that he threw a spitball.

"I didn't get any bruises, but they still hurt, and from that point on, I told myself and my parents I wasn't going to take any more paddlings," said Luckett, who is about to be a sophomore at the University of Mississippi.

It's not an easy choice. In many schools, kids can avoid a paddling if they accept suspension or detention, or for younger kids, if they skip recess. But often, a child opts for the short-term sting of the paddle.

And sometimes teachers don't have the option of after-school detention, because there are no buses to take kids home later.

During the three years Evan Couzo taught in the Mississippi Delta, he refused to paddle kids, offering detention instead. But others—teachers, parents, even kids—were accustomed to paddling.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

show that Speaker Arnold Palacios had asked one of the chamber's lawyers to review Fitial's executive order declaring the state of disaster emergency for the Commonwealth.

"As a result of that request by the Speaker, the counsel is in concurrence with the governor's carrying out the state of disaster," the lawmaker told *Saipan Tribune.*

Babauta said what attorney Joe Bermudes essentially asserted is that what the governor did was legal pursuant to the authorities and powers granted him by the CNMI Constitution and laws.

Babauta is a party-mate of Fitial under the Covenant Party.

Palacios had expressed concern over the legal implications of Fitial's declaration of a state of disaster emergency.

In his instructions to House lawyers, Palacios told them to review Executive Order 2008-10 and provide a legal analysis to the lower chamber. He said he wanted a clear briefing on what the legal implication of the executive order are.

Fitial issued the executive order on Aug. 1, declaring a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI, citing that one of the power engines at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1 in Lower Base could explode at any time, maiming or killing power plant workers.

The declaration had caught some lawmakers by surprise, including Sen. Paul Manglona, who chairs the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Commission. Manglona said the executive order was signed on Aug. 1, but he only became aware of it on Aug. 14.

Manglona had questioned whether there are other contracts being signed using this declaration of emergency.

But the Fitial administration has assured that CUC under the new leadership of executive director Tony Muna will not allow improper contracts to be executed.

THREE

From Page 1

Eleven hours later, when the Cutter *Kukui* arrived at the scene, the ships had already fled the area.

Freeman said one of the vessels "saw the aircraft, got spooked and fled the area north about 30 to 50 nautical miles." The Cutter *Kukui* pursued the vessel and was able intercept it after a nearly 50 nautical mile chase.

The fishing vessel has been ordered to return to port and its fishing license will be suspended.

Freeman said the Coast Guard regularly patrols the EEZ looking for violators.

"It's very periodic and we like to keep it that way," she said.

Freeman said violators are caught fairly often.

During fiscal year 2006, the Coast Guard documented two cases of illegal fishing in the EEZ.

In November 2005, a Coast Guard aircraft spotted a foreign fishing vessel operating within 15 nautical miles of the EEZ. The ship had no flag indicating its nationality but, using the vessel's name, the Coast Guard was able trace the ship to Taiwan. The U.S. government requested Taiwanese authorities to investigate the vessel's fishing activities, but the Coast Guard has not settled the case.

In March 2006, a Coast Guard aircraft with a NOAA Fisheries agent on board discovered a Taiwanese vessel fishing 60 nautical miles outside of the EEZ. The ship was interdicted and escorted to Saipan for violations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The ship's owner agreed to pay a $290,000 fine, install and maintain a vessel monitoring system for five years, and granted permission with Taiwanese concurrence to allow subsequent boardings of the vessel in high seas.

Angelo Villagomez, Saipan coordinator for the Pew Environment Group, said he is not surprised the vessels were found near the EEZ.

"We've known from anecdotal evidence that it's happening," he said. "I've known people that have flown over and seen it."

Pew is hoping to create a Mariana Trench National Monument in the Commonwealth's northern waters.

Villagomez said the monument declaration could lead to more Coast Guard and NOAA patrols in the area.

CUC

From Page 1

ruptcy has been explored or discussed.

Based on the statements, Pangelinan projects that by Sept. 30, 2008, CUC's deficit net worth would be $95,672,808.

The CUC statements provided to the Senate indicate that as of March 2008, CUC's total assets amounted to $129,859,453. The total liabilities was at $215,545.513.

Pangelinan, who chairs the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that based on the statements, CUC is "basically bankrupt."

In her comment and analysis of the statements, Pangelinan pointed out that Public Law 15-12, which was enacted in June 2006, had written off some $45,500,000 in liabilities. Supposedly, if it had been written off, the senator said, the total liabilities should only be $170,045,513.

Pangelinan said the total adjusted current liabilities (minus the $45.5 million written off) is $161,996,773.

She said the interest payable continues to climb at a rate of approximately $10 million per year, but CUC's net worth is declining by approximately the same amount.

The senator said CUC is paying interest expenses, but the total amount due continues to increase by about $10 million each year.

"If the difference between the interest payable amount from March 31, 2008, and from Sept. 30, 2007, is multiplied by two, the estimated interest payable amount for the end of the fiscal year will be approximately $127,299,727," Pangelinan said.

CUC, she noted, is on track to have a deficit net worth of $95 million at the end of this year.

"According to the statements, the net worth of CUC has declined in the first six months of FY 2008 by approximately $10 million," the senator said.

If the trend continues, she added, that amount will be approximately $20 million.

Pangelinan asked whether CUC could be turned around without privatization.

She also questioned, among other things, if it is likely that CUC will need additional outside financial resources during FY 2009.

'Bill an option to stabilize NMI workforce'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Representatives Edward Salas and Christina Sablan said yesterday that a bill granting improved immigration status to long-time guest workers presents an option that could help stabilize the CNMI's workforce during the federalization transition period.

This developed as Salas and Sablan, vice-chair and member of the House's Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee respectively, appealed to their colleagues to support the recall of the legislation and place it on the bill calendar.

Reps. Salas, Sablan, Victor Hocog, and Heinz Hofschneider had introduced House Bill 16-86 to grant improved immigration status to long-time alien workers. The bill proposes to allow eligible nonresident workers to live and work at will in the Commonwealth.

Public hearings were held on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian where written and oral testimonies were accepted. Public comments were also entertained.

But in a House session on July 31, JGO chair Rep. Rosemond Santos' committee recommended that the bill be shelved. Reps. Santos, Joseph Reyes, and Edwin Aldan signed the report.

The JGO Committee agreed that the proposal will benefit the CNMI, but noted that the federal immigration law will supersede and pre-empt all CNMI laws related to the entry and removal of foreign workers.

Salas and Sablan, in their Monday's letter to House members, appealed to lawmakers to reject the JGO report and instead support the recall of the bill from the committee.

The two lawmakers said the report was drafted and signed by Santos and two JGO committee members "outside of a properly assembled committee meeting to review and adopt the report."

Salas and Sablan pointed out that members of the Legislature should at least be given the opportunity to fully and thoughtfully debate the pressing labor and immigration issues raised by the bill.

Lawmakers, they said, should be given a chance to offer amendments and improve the legislation if that is the course of action the body wishes to pursue, and to vote on this measure in a timely manner.

The CNMI retains local control over immigration until June 9, 2009, the earliest date at which U.S. Public Law 110-229 (federalization) would take effect.

Salas and Sablan noted that the federal government may recognize resident foreign national status that is granted to eligible foreign workers if it is granted prior to that date.

"The federal government is unlikely to recognize any local legislation bearing on immigration that is enacted after that date," the two said.

Salas and Sablan said this is a critical time for the CNMI as the new federal immigration regulations are presently being drafted.

The two said that in briefings with federal officials, legislators have expressed deep concern about the impacts the new federal law may have on the stability of the local workforce and on the economy. They said lawmakers also expressed interest in participating in the development of the new federal immigration program in collaboration with federal officials.

Salas and Sablan said that pursuant to Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure, the JGO report is not a proper and valid committee report and that it should not be placed on the calendar.

The two said the report recommends the filing of House Bill 16-86 despite findings that the proposed eligibility requirements for resident foreign national status are reasonable and that the proposed resident foreign national program would benefit the CNMI.

Salas and Sablan said the report omits critical and valuable information received during these public hearings and a comment period that lasted over six weeks—including testimony that addressed the report's main argument that the bill would be moot as a result of the federalization law.

Torres: Villagomez should at least go on leave

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez should at least take a leave of absence if he doesn't want to resign, according to Rep. Stanley T. Torres.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that in his opinion, Villagomez should go on leave while the case is pending in court and while the Federal Bureau of Investigation's probe is ongoing.

He said the lieutenant governor's conscience should guide him whether to step down or continue with his job while the case is being tried in court.

"If he feels some impropriety, then I guess his conscience should tell him to step down or he may take a leave of absence," Torres said.

Torres said he has not heard a single member of both the House and Senate pushing for Villagomez's impeachment.

"The way American democracy functions, if a case is presented to the Legislature by the Department of Justice, the Attorney General, or somebody in law enforcement, if they come up and present evidence to the Legislature, then the Legislature should decide what to do," he said.

The long-time lawmaker said members of the Legislature would then debate the issue and if it warrants the proceeding, then the Legislature would step in.

"The Legislature doesn't have any investigative arm, unlike other states. Information coming from the general public or through the media is not enough," Torres pointed out.

On his silence about the indictment of Villagomez, the lawmaker said he just wants to let law enforcement agencies do their job.

"I'm satisfied that something is being done about it," he added.

Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James Santos, his wife Joaquina Villagomez Santos, and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero were indicted on charges of conspiring to bilk CNMI and U.S. governments out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving chemical purchases for CUC.

Santos already resigned as Commerce Secretary.

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'Rota residents also affected by power crisis'

Despite the island's own power plant to lean on, Rota residents are reportedly also affected by the power crisis on Saipan—but not as badly as the people on Saipan.

This, according to the Mayor of Rota's Liaison Office on Capitol Hill, which assists Rota residents when they come to Saipan.

"The people always complain about the rising cost of electricity, basic commodities and especially gasoline," said Liaison Assistant Coordinator Allan A. Taitano.

The power plant on Rota, Taitano said, is very much operational but residents of Rota also pay the same amount of electricity as well as prices in food.

"They always complain about having no increase in salaries," Taitano said when asked to comment regarding the ongoing crisis.

"Well, it's not as bad as here on Saipan but the 2,000 household there are trying to cope with the crisis," he said.

Rota Mayor Joseph Inos Sr. could not be reached for comment as he is in the U.S. mainland on family business.

The Mayor's Chief of Staff, Cris Ayuyu, was also busy with preparations of the upcoming fiesta there.

But despite the volatile situation, Taitano said business is as usual on Rota.

"Everybody in CNMI is feeling the brunt. We feel that we should all contribute to help solve the problem," he said. ***(Nazario Rodriguez)***

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Atalig bats for removal of CIP matching fund

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A municipal councilor on Saipan who is eyeing a seat in the U.S. Congress believes the CNMI should seek a waiver on the matching fund requirement for Capital Improvement Projects amid the current energy crisis.

Felipe Q. Atalig yesterday said that, if elected, his first assignment is to work out a legislative measure that would amend the agreement on the matching fund.

Based on the 1992 agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. federal government, the CNMI is required to match dollar-for-dollar all capital improvement funds provided by the federal government.

Atalig said that only the CNMI is required to do so compared to other U.S. territories in the Pacific such as Guam and American Samoa.

Atalig also weighed in on the planned visit of a group of federal officials in September to assess the power situation.

It was incumbent Rep. Pete A. Tenorio who earlier announced the coming of the officials, with the goal of helping the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. end its power crisis.

Tenorio noted five recommendations by the Office of Insular Affairs that would help improve the CNMI's energy situation, which include a feasibility study to determine whether coal-fired units should be incorporated with the existing fossil-powered generators; establishment of a mass transit system using small fuel-efficient and privately owned buses; implementation of a rate adjustment to recover the local utility firm's capital; enactment of a law making theft of electricity a crime; and exploration of the possibility of using solar and wind as energy sources on the islands.

But Atalig, who is president of the Northern Mariana Islands Council Association, said the timing of the visit could be questionable.

"Instead of bringing experts, he [Tenorio] should aggressively seek to waive the agreement on the CIP matching fund," he said.

Tenorio, who has been the CNMI's representative to the U.S. Congress for the last six years, could not be reached for comment.

Atalig said the immediate solution is to seek sources of funding to buy new generators, and getting rid of the matching fund will eventually help solve the problem.

Commerce gears up for ABTC forum

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

In a bid to improve relations with local alcohol and tobacco sellers, the Department of Commerce is hosting a first ever business forum next week aimed at resolving key regulatory issues they face.

"What we're really looking at is how we can better serve our clients, the folks who are impacted by us, how to make the permitting process smoother and even letting them know what we're thinking about in terms of regulation," Michael Ada, Commerce's acting secretary, said in an interview Wednesday.

In a statement, Commerce said its Division of Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control (ABTC) and its Enforcement and Compliance Division will hold the forum Aug. 27 at the Multi-Purpose Building in Susupe. The agenda includes talks on licensing, key problems facing regulated businesses and ways the department can improve its services. Several other commerce issues related to the enforcement of regulations for taxicabs, recycling and other sectors of the economy are also part of the program.

One issue that may surface at the forum is a recently reported effort by Commerce and the regulated community to ease the penalties ABTC licensees face for failing to renew permits on time. Currently, such businesses are barred from renewing their licenses for one month if they miss the application deadline, thereby preventing them from selling alcohol and tobacco products.

Ada said the forum would give licensees a chance to be included in the process of improving these regulations.

"We want to get feedback from those establishments and have them involved," Ada said.

The forum comes after Commerce recently unveiled statistics showing a slight drop in the number of license renewal. 149 vendors previously licensed to sell ABTC products missed the June 30 renewal deadline, the department said previously.

The forum will begin at 8am and conclude at 12pm.

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Council ready for its annual Pacific arts, culture exhibit

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Anticipating a big turnout this year, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is now ready to hold the annual Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit at the Joeten Motors Showcase Room.

The opening day of the monthlong activity will be on Aug. 29 from 10am to 4pm.

Regular exhibit hours from Aug. 30 to Sept. 30 will be from 8am to 7pm, from Mondays to Fridays and at 8am to 12pm on Saturdays. The venue will be closed during Sundays and holidays.

Arts Coordinator Lucille T. Ayuyu said they are now collecting all art works for the exhibit.

"We are inviting the public to join us and visit our exhibit. It's open for everybody," Ayuyu said.

CCAC registered the lowest turnout of participating artists last year, an annual event which is part of the celebrations for the CNMI Heritage Month.

It is organized by the CCAC to help local artists market their work. The event is also in coordination with the National Endowment For the Arts and the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and sponsored by Joeten Motors Co. Inc.

Just last month, the CCAC held the first Summer Art Exhibit at the CNMI Gallery on Capital Hill, an exhibition of visual and folk art for sale that was planned and coordinated by the summer Workforce Investment Act staff.

The two other activities CCAC conducted In July included helping in the construction of the DCCA July 4th parade float and the Eco Arts Fair when CCAC coordinated the Battle of the Bands and assisted with the Visual Arts Exhibition.

CCAC is also holding the Garapan Street Market every Thursday from 5pm to 9pm.

Name: John Joseph V. and
Samantha C. Salas
Address: PO BOX 7804 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No. (670) 322-5587/285-0711

Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP OF **Julia Margret C. & Janece Mae C. Salas** by. **Francisco DLG. & Julita C. Crisostomo** Petitioner	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0490 **ORDER SHORTNING TIME FOR NOTICE OF HEARING**

GOOD CAUSE APPEALING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner(s) petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on August 25, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2008.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

Two men armed with machetes rob CK store

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two men attacked a store clerk with a machete at the Glory Market in Chalan Kanoa Saturday, according to the Department of Public Safety.

The 60-year-old female victim was sitting behind the cahier's counter around 6:40pm Saturday when two masked men armed with machetes reportedly ran inside the store. The victim attempted to push the store's alarm button, but one of the men allegedly struck her with a machete on her right arm, leaving a bruise.

The men were able to cut the line of the cash register and flee the store with the machine.

Anyone with information should call NMC Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272. A reward of up to $1,000 is being offered for information leading to the suspects' arrest.

CRIME OF THE WEEK
Poker game room robbery

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on any of the individual(s) involved in the armed robbery at the High Roller Poker Game Room, located in Koblerville across the Han Nam Market. The crime was reported on Friday, July 25, 2008, at 1:42am.

Preliminary investigations reveal that three masked men armed with a machete and a silver handgun entered the establishment and robbed a staff member while he was making collections from the poker machines. Information gathered revealed that the suspects were described as light skinned, around 5'6" to 5'7" in height, and possibly of Asian background, through the language spoken and accent. All three men wore black masks, dark colored t-shirts and long blue jeans. The suspects fled the scene with an undetermined amount of money and in a silver sedan with license plate number ACC-798.

Crime Stoppers is also seeking the community's assistance for information about any of the armed robberies that occurred in Saipan. Your help in solving these crimes will go a long way in placing criminals behind bars.

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

COURTESY CALL

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team visit the Marianas Visitors Authority office before leaving for Japan today, Aug. 21, to perform at the two-day Awaodori Festival in Koenji, Tokyo, on Aug. 22-23. They paid a courtesy call yesterday on MVA managing director Perry Tenorio and they will also be visiting the MVA branch in Tokyo, Japan. The children—Jinky and James Kintaro Jr., Norman and Freeman Defang, Bernadette You and Ronald Fitipol—are seen here with Tenorio and Hideaki Sawada, director of PDM Promoters Inc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DUI checkpoints tomorrow, Sat.

The Department of Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI checkpoints on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 22-23, 2008.

On Friday, the first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai by the Sherwin-Williams Building. It will begin around 7:30pm and end around 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road, Susupe by the Minatchom Atdao. This will start around10pm and end around 11:15pm.

The next day, Aug. 23, the first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Chalan Laulau by the Transamerica Building. It will begin around 7:30pm and end around 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Laulau by the late Dr. Kaipat's residence. This will start around10pm and end around 11:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour, 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, Traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact act. Sgt. Juan C. Mendiola or act. Lt. Paul Ogumoro at 664-9085. ***(DPS)***

2-day DUI checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section on Rota will be conducting two DUI/sobriety checkpoints on Aug. 23 and 27, 2008.

The first checkpoint on Saturday will be held along San Francisco Highway by the Sinapolo 3 Park on Rota. It will begin around 1:30am and end at 2:45am.

The second checkpoint on Aug. 27 will be conducted along San Francisco Highway by the Pinatang Park. It will start around 10pm and end at about 11:15pm.

Both checkpoints will be terminated if it rains.

In addition to the checkpoint, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdiction activities. For more information, contact Officer Jarrod T. Manglona of the Traffic Section at 670-532-9433. ***(DPS)***

Seatbelt, child seat checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting seatbelt and child restraint checkpoints on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008.

The first setup will be on Beach Road Susupe across Ada Gym. This will begin around 8am and end at 9:15am.

The second setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Piao by Hopwood Jr. High School. It will begin around 4pm and end around 5:1pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicles occupants are protected.

Traffic officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact Sgt Paul T. Ogumoro at 664-9085. ***(DPS)***

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Great animals up for adoption

PAWS has two unique animals that are in need of loving and responsible homes.

The first animal is Apollo, a dog that was rescued from As Matius on Wednesday evening after a neighbor called to report that the dog had a plastic cookie bucket stuck on his head for at least five days.

"Though the image may sound funny at first," said PAWS president Katie Busenkell. "I assure that this was no laughing matter. Had the neighbor not helped this animal, he would have died from starvation and dehydration. A miserable and prolonged way to die."

The animal was taken to a foster home where the bucket had to be removed with dull-point scissors.

"Apollo is recovering beautifully. PAWS would like to place him with a family that will appreciate his past and provide him with a loving home in the future."

Apollo is a male boonie dog, thought to be about 1 year old. He is good with children, cats, kittens, and dogs. According to Busenkell, "he is just happy to be around anyone that is willing to pat his head and talk to him. He'll make a great companion for someone or some family."

If you or someone you know is interested in adopting or fostering Apollo and providing the animal with a loving home, contact PAWS at 285-PAWS. Foster families will be provided with one bag of dog food per month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chin Chin is a kitten thought to be about six weeks of age.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Apollo is a male boonie dog, thought to be about 1 year old.

The second animal is Chin Chin, a kitten thought to be about six weeks of age.

Nine days ago, this kitten was found in the middle of the road, just in front of DPS, bleeding from the mouth. The rescuer thought a car had hit this kitten, so they took it to Paradise Island Animal Hospital for an examination.

According to Dr. Tudor, the kitten only had a chin injury that had removed the skin from the bone. A full recovery is expected, though the kitten is expected to have some scarring.

According to her foster family, she is a healthy, playful, and incredibly affectionate little kitten that is oblivious to her healing chin wound. "She gets along with dogs and other cats, and would make a great family pet."

If you are interested in adopting or fostering Chin Chin, contact PAWS at 285-PAWS. Again, foster families will be provided with $20 a month for cat food and/or kitty litter.

Busenkell noted, "It is always important that the community help us find responsible homes for unwanted or abandoned animals. Without the eyes and ears of the community, we would not be able to place these animals in good homes and our foster families would cease offering their help and support. Therefore, we are asking everyone in the community to help us find responsible and loving homes for these animals." ***(PAWS)***

NMC registration ongoing

CONTACT INFO

Office of Admissions and Records
Phone: 234-5498 extension 1523/28/39/40,
E-mail: oar@nmcnet.edu
Web: www.nmcnet.edu.

It's not too late to register for classes for the upcoming Fall 2008 semester at the Northern Marianas College. Those individuals interested in furthering their education still have until this Friday, Aug. 22, 2008, to register. Late registration, which requires a $25 late fee, will be held on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 9am to 12pm.

Admission applications for those who have already taken both placement tests will be accepted up to the last day of registration as well.

NMC offers a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, as well as an associate degree in Business, Liberal Arts, Nursing, Natural Resource Management, Business Administration (with emphasis in accounting, sales and marketing, computer applications, etc.), Hospitality Management, Criminal Justice, and more.

The updated class schedule for the Fall 2008 semester can be found on the NMC website at www.nmcnet.edu. Information about registration and admissions can also be found on the website. For more information, call the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 extension 1523/28/39/40, e-mail oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 21, 2000

CUC: Agencies should assume unpaid bills
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has expressed support for a proposal to turn over responsibility of paying government utilities to each department or agency in view of the mounting debt by the Tenorio administration in unpaid billings. At present, the government owes CUC over $12 million—and still counting—which represents utilities costs for all departments and agencies from as far back as late 1997.

FSM food ban may be lifted next month
The government will lift by next month the ban imposed on food products coming from the Federated States of Micronesia after lowering the risks of a cholera outbreak in the Northern Marianas. Lands and Natural Resources Sec. Joaquin A. Tenorio said a decision will be made in the next 30 days, although the CNMI has in recent weeks eased restrictions on the entry of some of the products imported from FSM.

OPM opposes 1 hour breast-feeding leave
Office of Personnel Management Director Mathilda A. Rosario has opposed a proposal that will authorize women government employees who have newly born children one hour of administrative leave for breast-feeding. While she shares the concern of the Legislature on the welfare of newborn children, Ms. Rosario said she is still opposing HB 12-068 because it "would exacerbate an already existing equity problem and could be misconstrued as discriminatory."

August 21, 2001

House allows continued bombing
The House of Representatives threw its support behind the US Navy, in connection with the case filed by the US-based Center for Biological Diversity against the US Navy for conducting live fire training on the Farallon de Medinilla Island. The House also directed its legal counsel, Patricia Halsell, to file a legal brief supporting the legal stance taken by the US Navy in the case.

NMI building insect colony
Work is underway for the completion of the Kagman Laboratory where the scarlet gourd stemborer will be stored to propagate once its importation is completed. Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service entomologist Lee Eavy said the Division of Agriculture has agreed to allocate a section at the Kagman Laboratory where the scarlet gourd stemborer will be housed shortly after importation.

Drug tests for elected officials?
Given a choice, Rep. Egredino M. Jones would want all elected officials and legislative staff in the Commonwealth to undergo mandatory drug testing. To this end, Jones said he intends to introduce a bill that would require all elected officials in the CNMI, as well as all employees of the Legislative Bureau and the staff of all legislators, to undergo mandatory drug testing to weed out drug users.

August 21, 2002

NMI educational hub for Korean and Japanese students
The Northern Marianas is slowly but surely carving a niche as a prime destination for Korean and Japanese students, as the CNMI strengthens cultural and educational exchange programs with the two Asian countries. Apart from the 100 Korean students who arrived on island under the HANVIT-Saipan exchange program, 40 students from Korea were also welcomed with warm tropical greetings by Dandan Elementary School students and teachers yesterday morning.

Budget goes to Babauta
The House of Representatives is expected to transmit this morning to Gov. Juan N. Babauta the proposed $213 million Fiscal Year 2003 budget, after the Senate gave the green light yesterday afternoon to the Environmental Beautification Tax. Both chambers of the Legislature had already passed House Bill 13-170-the spending plan for the next fiscal year-but the House has held off transmitting it to the Office of the Governor until the Senate passes House Bill 13-171-the beautification tax-which the lower chamber considers key to achieving the projected revenue for next fiscal year.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Endangered process

In May, the Bush administration reluctantly listed the polar bear as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. The facts left it with little choice: the bear's Arctic Sea ice habitat is melting because of global warming. But the administration wasn't happy, because the Endangered Species Act was never intended to be an instrument for coping with climate change. Our sympathy was limited, since President Bush spent his entire time in office resisting the adoption of laws that would have been better suited to combating greenhouse gas emissions. But we agreed that the Endangered Species Act was the wrong tool for the problem.

Now, however, in what is ostensibly an attempt to deal with this polar bear mismatch, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne has proposed a rules change that would undermine the law's fundamental work. Mr. Kempthorne suggests far-reaching changes to the consultation process between the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service and other agencies. The changes would render the process meaningless and put all protected species at risk. Currently, an agency building a highway has to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether the project is "likely to adversely affect" a listed species. If a determination is made that such harm is likely, the service conducts a more rigorous review of the project and issues a detailed opinion on its effects. It is in this give-and-take between the various agencies and services that modifications are made that allow projects to go forward while minimizing the harm to animals and to trees and other plants.

Under Mr. Kempthorne's plan, agencies would be able to decide for themselves whether a project is likely to harm a species, and not just polar bears. If an agency decided to consult on the possible impact, the Fish and Wildlife Service would have 60 days (with the possibility of a 60-day extension) to issue an opinion. If it didn't meet that deadline, the other agency could end the consultation and proceed. The Fish and Wildlife Service already can't meet the deadlines established in the Endangered Species Act and is practically being run by judges and lawyers because of litigation stemming from blown deadlines. So we don't hold out much hope that Mr. Kempthorne's new deadlines would be met, either. The impact could be devastating.

The department contends that other government agencies have had years of experience with the law and know as much as the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service about how to protect listed species. This is doubtful. The services are there for a reason — to safeguard threatened and endangered species and to act as a check against the ambitions of agencies that want to complete projects. The rigor that the current consultation process fosters would be lost.

A 30-day comment period on the new rules has begun. So, here's our comment: Reissue the proposed regulations with a specific, targeted policy on how greenhouse gas emissions should be taken into account on federal projects under the Endangered Species Act. Gutting the consultation process, with all the unintended consequences of such an action, could be avoided.

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Impossible dreams

"When someone says you can't do something, it shows that anything is possible. When you put your mind to a certain thing, it can happen. The biggest thing is nothing is impossible. All it takes is an imagination."

—Michael Phelps, Olympic swimmer

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Last Sunday, during the Summer Olympic games in Beijing, millions of people witnessed an Olympian accomplish something that many thought was impossible. Mark Spitz's 36-year record of winning seven gold medals at the Games in Munich was shattered when Michael Phelps earned his eighth gold medal in the 400-meter medley relay.

Not only did Phelps win the medals, but he also broke seven world records and one Olympic record in the process. Considering the17 times he had to swim in nine days and the intense competition from the world's best swimmers—several of them world record holders—it makes his feat even more amazing. In his seventh swim for the medal, he was seventh to reach the 50-meter turn in the 100-meter butterfly, and he trailed the leader, Milorad Cavic, until the last stroke where he touched the wall to win by one hundredth of a second. During the grueling 192 hours of self-discipline, the 23-year-old from Baltimore did not once lose focus of his goal. There was simply no room for the slightest slip-up, and his concentration had to be intense.

What's interesting is that a kindergarten teacher once told his mother that young Michael couldn't sit still and that he would "never be able to focus on anything." When he was about nine years old he was diagnosed with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Years later, a middle school English teacher humiliated Phelps by telling him that he would never be successful. Mother, Debbie, has said that it was a difficult time for her son, but that she never stopped believing in Michael's ability to persevere through adversity.

Rather than dwell on the limited perspectives of others, their negative words became the fuel for Phelps to work even harder to reach his goals. His ability to dismiss the naysayers, and endure the grueling workouts that honed his skills is what helps distinguish his greatness.

Phelps is quick to credit Bob Bowman, his personal coach, for helping him dream big. It was Bowman that recognized his potential for greatness when Phelps was only 11 years old, and the two have continued to work together in a symbiotic relationship for the last 12 years.

Phelps said when one starts dreaming, he or she should dream big. "No matter what you set your imagination to, anything can happen. Dream as big as you can and anything is possible."

What dreams do you have, and are they big enough to be worthy of you? Greatness comes to those who dream big and work to make it happen. Nothing is impossible, no matter your age, education, circumstances, or experience. You are only limited by your ability to see something in your mind's eye, and stay focused as you endure the ups and downs to make it happen. Michael Phelps has become the new icon, not only for the Olympic Games, but for dreamers everywhere who still have something they believe in and know they can achieve.

Dreams don't come easily, but powerful dreamers make it look simple. There were many obstacles that could have kept Phelps from gliding to eight wins. Cavic, the Californian who swam for the Serbia team in his seventh race, said: "Everyone on the planet is trying to make him work, giving him obstacles."

There are some important lessons to be learned as Michael Phelps pursued his monolithic dream. Bob Bowman gives some insight into how he stayed focused on his dream even during adversity when he said: "The ups and downs, sometimes you have to have that. There will be bitter disappointments, and Michael dealt with those the best way he could. He handled it the right way. You just have to do that and have that support system around you. Michael has had that and he will always have that."

That support system is the people he surrounds himself with, and it was evident that besides his friends, coach and other teammates, a big part of it was his mom and two older sisters. Even though his Herculean effort was to carve his name into the history books, there might be another lesson that Phelps learned: Sometimes it's not all about achieving your impossible dreams, but its more about the people with whom you share them.

After Phelps received his eighth gold medal and as the final "Star-Spangled Banner" played in the background, he looked over at his mother and sisters in the crowd and he did something new. He broke down and cried.

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A new start for the economy

Third of a four-part series

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

It is worth remembering that the unbridled economic growth experienced in the mid-eighties was generally a result of external forces over which the NMI played no part in creating. It was a case of the islands being in the right place at the right time and the direct result of legislation passed by the U.S. Congress, namely Headnote 3(a), which stimulated the growth of the garment industry and its exports to the American market. Almost concurrently the dollar was devalued in relation to the yen and other currencies at the Plaza Accords in New York in 1986. This action provided the impetus to jump start the hotel and tourism sector, largely financed by Japanese investment. It was a fortuitous time for the islands and such luck is not likely to ever happen again.

To achieve any measurable growth from here on out, this means that the islands must now resort to their own creative devices, hopefully with a little help from that ol' much maligned, paternalistic, meddlesome "sugar daddy" who picks up the tab for most of the infrastructure bills

It means it's time to stop longing for the old days and get to work on bringing about new days of prosperity. A great deal of the effort will depend upon a state of mind and positive attitudes as well as a willingness to cooperate by putting politics aside for the good of the community and the economy (Can that ever be possible?).

The islands need new investment—about that there is no doubt—and investment needs stability and a government and societal commitment that the infrastructure needed to sustain that investment and assist its continued growth will be available and reliable. It's a two-way street. Ask yourself what some potential investors must think when they learn about CUC's problems or the fact that for 35 years there hasn't been 24-hour potable water available islandwide.

Those are striking and disturbing deficiencies in view of the fact that millions of dollars have been available to solve the problems and provide adequate infrastructure, if only the money had been planned and managed properly. Who's kidding whom here? The islands had a more reliable water and power supply when it was under the Trust Territory Government than it has today.

For those new to the island the T.T. period was the time when the single local bank in the Marianas had only 4,016 accounts with aggregate savings of $562,000. The private sector consisted of only 55 licensed businesses with total assets estimated at slightly less than $2 million. Only 957 privately owned vehicles were registered. The single credit union had a membership of 277 with total assets of $19,700. The 1,056 employed indigenous workers in the Marianas had wages that totaled $1.5 million annually and the resident population stood at 10,486 people. The Trust Territory Government, with its large expatriate payroll, was the major employer.

By the late summer of 1970 the island was almost devoid of the amenities of the 20th century. There was one black and white television channel available, broadcasting only a few hours each evening; only three food stores of any size with a very limited inventory; one cargo vessel a month called at the port; the airport was an open-air tin shack and there were no recreational craft in the lagoon. There were only two hotels, the 56-room Royal Taga Hotel where the World Resort Hotel now stands in Susupe and the Hafa Adai Hotel in Garapan, which then consisted of 10 plywood bungalows. The number of island restaurants could be counted on one hand. There were very few automobiles on the island and those consisted mostly of secondhand, rusted pickups. The Fire Department had a single red jeep and there was only one stop sign on Saipan's roadways. To make an overseas telephone call one had to drive to the RCA office in Susupe. The economy was minuscule and stayed that way until the mid-'80s—then everything changed as foreign investment flowed into the islands.

During the period 1986 to 2004 (the period for which I have records) the CNMI government's internally generated revenue was $3.07 billion. That's one million dollars multiplied more than 3,000 times. During this period the total expenditures on capital improvement projects in the Commonwealth as generated by the island's own internal revenue sources was a meager 3.2 percent ($78.4 million). Over the above period, other government expenditures were wages and salaries, $1.6 billion (64 percent), and all other expenditures of $807.5 million (32.8 percent). The vast majority of the total expenditures made on capital improvement infrastructure projects resulted not from locally generated revenues but largely as a result of more than 25 years of U.S. financial assistance in the form of program grants. The CNMI's locally generated revenue has been largely directed toward supporting an increased payroll, as everyone knows.

Add to the above local revenue the sum of $586 million in Covenant funds plus the multimillions provided by the U.S. government in the form of a myriad of program grants ranging from road, air and seaport improvements, hospital and medical facilities, etc., and one might legitimately pose the question: "What went wrong that we can't drink the water or enjoy life without power outages?"

If there was ever truth in the old expression "the chickens have come home to roost," it is certainly applicable to the NMI and its longtime, inexcusable neglect in providing reliable power and potable water necessary to assist the critical tourism component of the economy. Frankly, it's nothing short of disgraceful—and that's being polite.

You can't tell me that when potential investors look at the millions in revenue that has been available to the government in years past and compare it with the decrepit condition of power, water and other infrastructure they don't wonder, "What kind of a spendthrift government is this? When they run out of money will they increase my taxes?" If you think this doesn't cross their mind, I have a whole lot of stuff covered in weeds out in the back yard I want to sell you.

And here's another personal observation from one who is basically an adherent of the philosophy of laissez faire (i.e., "hands off"—let private investment thrive without being choked and smothered with excessive government regulations and oversight): With too few exceptions, many local people who should have been introduced or otherwise encouraged to become entrepreneurs or merchants within the tourist sector did not rise to take advantage of the many opportunities at the time of the "economic boom." For whatever reason, many remained non-participants for too long. Even to the extent of permitting large numbers of non-U.S. citizens (non-voters) to take over the smaller, low investment, "mom-and-pop" neighborhood stores, gift shops and other small, minimum investment, "entry-type" businesses. The impact of the local multiplier effect aside, for the most part these are not export-oriented endeavors and thus such businesses generally do not generate "new" money into the economy; they only re-circulate money that's already there.

I have often wondered if the non-participation of so many local people in business and their apparent indifference to the infrastructure deficiency so vital to a dynamic economy resulted in a smaller indigenous constituency to actively advocate, sympathize and support the needs of private business. If there had been more local people and their number been greater—when there was still time—they might have otherwise strongly voiced their concern over infrastructure deficiencies within the halls of government where water and power requirements should be realized, planned and adequately budgeted and implemented. The "squeaky wheel" syndrome, so to speak.

If self-government in the NMI has been a learning experience, it sure as hell has taken a long time. As things now stand the NMI is America's only underdeveloped economy, aside from possibly an Indian reservation, but even they have power and water. How's that for a reputation?

The islands are a nice place but they are not the center of the universe—there are many other places an investor can select to do business.

Could the government learn a modified lesson from Pogo? "We have identified the problem and it is us." For some, and this economist included, it seems the government has lost its way. Hopefully, some of the thoughts and observations advanced in this series will help in charting a new course with a compass heading for better days.

I hope my calling a "spade a spade" as I see it has not offended anyone. My unsolicited advice to the community and the government is—if asked—"Get busy and dust off the welcome mat with new incentives to lure investors and forget the blame game—there has been enough of that."

The concluding article will offer several thoughts on generating increased foreign investment.

To be continued.

Letters to the Editor

Praise for a CUC employee

Recently Harry Blalock suggested that we not direct our wrath over our utilities at the lower level CUC employees. This is a point well taken and which has prompted me to write.

Two of the "smart" water meters at the properties my wife and I own in Garapan stopped working. Because they have a digital display I assumed they require a small battery, but I wasn't sure. A few weeks ago I was driving by the Water Task Force office on Capitol Hill just as one of the employees drove up. More out of curiosity than anything I stopped and asked him if the smart meters do in fact require batteries. He said yes they do, but they should last for several years. He asked me where the meters were located, and when I told him he said, "I'll take care of it." This response totally caught me off guard, and to save both of us the embarrassment of nothing being done I gave him an escape route. I said, don't worry about it; I'll call it in to the trouble desk. Again, he said he would take care of it. He didn't tell me it wasn't his job, ask me to fill out a form, draw him a map, or report it to his supervisor who was unfortunately on leave for the next month because his third cousin's sister-in-law had the measles. He simply said he'd take care of it. We parted ways, with myself scratching my head trying to figure out what had just taken place. I mean, I wasn't really looking for someone to solve my problem. I just thought maybe we'd talk about it for a while.

About a week after this encounter I got ready to write CUC a scathing letter, asking them why my meters haven't worked in a year, but I figured that I had better be sure of my facts first, so I went by Garapan to take one more look at the meters. Lo and behold, both meters have been replaced. Unfortunately I did not get the name of the individual I spoke to, but I hope he reads this and realizes that his professionalism is noted and appreciated. Of course, I am not so dumb as to think that every non-management CUC employee is a ball of fire just waiting to be freed from the shackles of supervisory ineptitude, but many of them are. There must be at least two individuals other than this technician that knew there was a problem with out meters for over one year but did nothing: the meter reader himself and the person who enters the readings into the system. It's too bad that the response of the latter is what we have come to expect, and that those employees with a desire to perform their jobs well far too often go unrecognized.

Ron Fusco
Capital Hill, Saipan

A tribute to a father

Seventy-two years ago on Aug. 10, Eusebio Taimanao Manglona, best known as Bell to his family and friends, became the fourth child of seven children born to Luis and Veronica Manglona of Rota Island. From an early age Bell had great ambition to explore the world beyond his beautiful island. In 1950, he continued his education on the island of Guam. He seized his opportunity to explore by joining the Air Force. His last post was in the mainland USA in the state of Ohio.

After retiring from the military he worked odd jobs while attending Ohio State Cosmetology College. Soon after graduation he opened a barber shop known as Manglona's Barber Shop. He capitalized on his success at his barbershop business and invested in real estate. His success in both businesses did not deter him from taking on two part-time jobs. His singular determination to work hard and "anything is possible" mentality propelled him toward his most rewarding job, being a father to three bright and beautiful young ladies.

Bell's success is not limited to business alone. He is a respected member of the community and is always seen with a smile on his face and a ready hand to shake. Although balancing his busy schedule is a testament to his dogged commitment to excellence in whatever he pursues, his secret would be summed up in a regiment of vitamins, yearly examinations, and a balanced diet.

Today Bell continues to prosper and reap the rewards of his endeavors. He lives in Ohio with his wife, Connie Quitugua Manglona and three daughters. This is our family's tribute to a self-made man of the world on his 72nd birthday and our Rota success story, Mr. Eusebio Taimanao Manglona.

A belated birthday message from your daughters

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy. South southeast wind between 6 and 10 mph.	Mostly sunny. Southwest wind between 3 and 6 mph.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

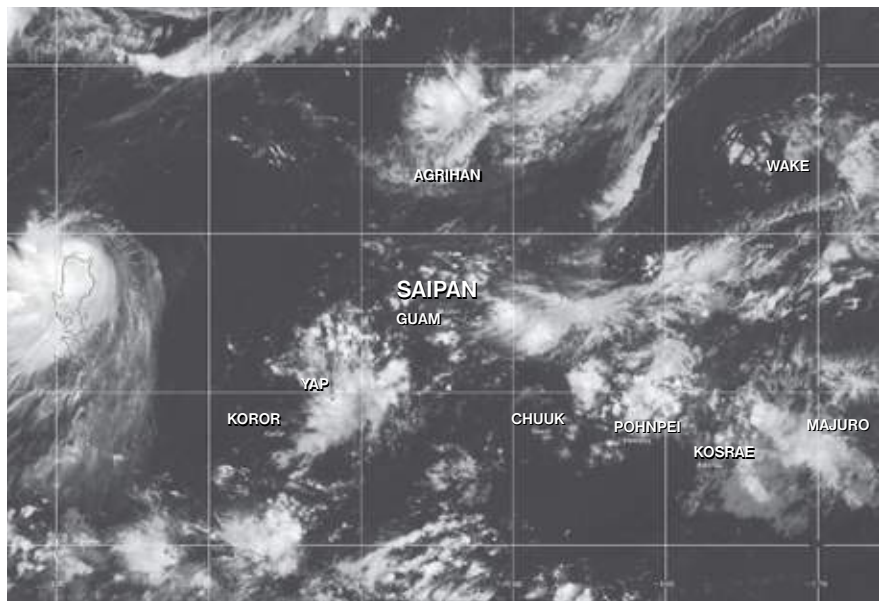
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲83	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲60	▼48
Beijing	Rain	▲81	▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Rain	▲70	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼64
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲50	▼37
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼75
New York	Sunny	▲83	▼67
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼69
Paris	Cloudy	▲76	▼61
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼66
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Seoul	Showers	▲84	▼66
Tokyo	Showers	▲82	▼71
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southward from the Marianas near 17N145E to east of Yap at 6N142E. Convergence near the trough axis is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Yap within 100 miles of a line from 12N141E to 5N137E and up to 180 miles north of the equator between 131E and 136E. An upper-level trough extending northeastward from 17N156E to an upper low centered at 24N166E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Wake Island between 19N and 16N from 159E to 163E. Similar conditions are also found near the western end of the trough about 450 miles east of Guam between 16N and 13N from 150E to 152E. Trade-wind convergence over eastern Micronesia is causing widely scattered showers near Pohnpei and Chuuk between 12N and 6N from 154E to 161E. A trough extending southward from 9N168E to 3N171E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Kwajalein and Majuro within 90 miles of a line from 5N172E to 8N168E to 4N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:38AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:29AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:35PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:32PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03AM	6:37 PM
Friday	6:03AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	6:04AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	6:04AM	6:35 PM
Monday	6:04AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:29PM	9:34AM
Friday	10:15PM	10:31AM
Saturday	11:05PM	11:31AM
Sunday		12:34AM
Monday	12:02AM	1:38PM

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- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,984.200
Up 53.800
(+1.09%)

HONG KONG
20,805.07
Up 320.70
(+1.57%)

JAKARTA
2,058.8359
Up 16.338
(+0.80%)

TOKYO
12,881.97
Up 16.92
(+0.13%)

K. LUMPUR
1,069.42
Down 14.94
(-1.38%)

MANILA
2,681.66
Down -9.54
(–0.35%)

SINGAPORE
2,741.80
Up 13.41
(+0.49%)

SEOUL
1,541.94
Up 0.53
(+0.03%)

BANGKOK
692.15
Up 0.82
(+0.12%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,348.55
-130.84

NASDAQ
2,384.36
-32.62

S&P
1,266.69
-11.91

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.146
British Pound	0.5357
Canadian Dollar	1.0619
Chinese Renmbi	6.8543
Euro	0.6772
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8095
Indian Rupee	43.77
Indonesian Rupiah	9188
Japanese Yen	109.865
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3345
New Zealand Dollar	1.3987
Philippine Peso	45.68
Singapore Dollar	1.4094
South Korean Won	1049.3
Swiss Franc	1.0926
Taiwan Dollar	31.388
Thailand Baht	34.14

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Oil rises above $114 after dollar weakens

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices rebounded Tuesday, jumping back above $114 barrel after the dollar weakened against the euro and a rally in heating oil pulled new buyers into energy markets.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery rose $1.66 to settle at $114.53 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after alternating between positive and negative territory earlier in the day. The September contract expires Wednesday, adding to the volatility.

At the pump, retail gas prices continued their decline, suggesting that cash-strapped Americans are still cutting back on their driving. A gallon of regular slipped another penny overnight to a new national average of $3.73, almost 10 percent lower than record prices of $4.114 a gallon reached July 17, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

Crude began the day lower after Tropical Storm Fay missed oil and gas installation in the Gulf of Mexico, easing concerns about a disruption in supplies. But prices later spiked more than $3 a barrel, apparently driven higher by a surge in heating oil futures that triggered technical buy orders in energy markets, analysts said

Heating oil futures rose 3.89 cents to settle at $3.1237 a gallon on the Nymex after earlier rising more than 3 percent to $3.1998.

"Crude's just getting pulled up by heating oil. It was a quick pop and technical triggers may have been hit," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Ill.

Also supporting prices Tuesday was a slightly weaker dollar compared to the euro. The 15-nation euro traded at $1.4783, up from $1.4697 late Monday in New York. A falling greenback encourages buying among investors seeking commodities like oil as a hedge against inflation or weakness in the U.S. currency.

Wholesale prices rising at the fastest pace since 1981

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wholesale inflation soared in July, leaving prices rising at the fastest pace in nearly three decades. While recent declines in oil and other commodity prices raise hopes inflation may have peaked, some economists worry about the widespread nature of the July price surge and caution it will take more time for that pressure to ease on Wall Street and Main Street.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that wholesale prices shot up 1.2 percent in July, pushed higher by rising costs for energy and a variety of other products from motor vehicles to plastic goods.

The increase was more than twice the 0.5 percent gain that economists expected and left prices rising over the past 12 months by 9.8 percent. That marked the biggest annual increase since the 12 months ending in June 1981, a period when the Federal Reserve was driving interest rates to the highest levels since the Civil War in an effort to combat a decade-long bout of inflation.

Core prices, which exclude food and energy, rose 0.7 percent last month. That increase was the biggest since November 2006 and more than triple the 0.2 percent rise in core prices that had been expected.

Elsewhere, the Commerce Department reported that construction of new homes and apartments slid to an annual rate of 965,000 units in July, a 17-year low. Builders continued to slash production as they battled slumping sales and soaring mortgage defaults dumping more homes on an already glutted market.

AP

Unsold 2009 Vibes sit at a Pontiac dealership in the south Denver suburb of Littleton, Colo., on Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

California home sales surged in July, prices fell

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California homebuyers sprung to life in July, pouncing on foreclosed homes and deeply discounted properties but largely ignoring pricier homes that have been languishing on the market, a research firm said Tuesday. Buyers drove sales up more than 12 percent from July 2007, resulting in the biggest jump in sales in four years, according to MDA DataQuick. The flood of foreclosure sales helped drag down the statewide median home price—or the midpoint between the highest and lowest price—to $318,000, a drop of 33.5 percent from July 2007. The July median price was down 3 percent from June. It peaked in May 2007 at $484,000. In all, 39,507 new and preowned homes were sold statewide last month. Sales were up 12.2 percent from June's total. July's home sales count was the highest since June 2004, but it still was below the average sales volume for the month over the past 21 years.

Hewlett-Packard 3Q profit jumps 14 pct

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hewlett-Packard Co.'s fiscal third-quarter profit jumped 14 percent, beating Wall Street's expectations, as strong laptop sales and a robust international presence lifted the technology bellwether. The Palo Alto-based company's results, reported after the market closed Tuesday, signaled that HP is still holding its ground as the world's No. 1 seller of personal computers even with stronger competition from Dell Inc. and Apple Inc. and aggressive price cuts. HP said it earned $2.03 billion, or 80 cents per share, in the latest period, up from $1.78 billion, or 66 cents per share, a year earlier. Excluding one-time charges, HP's profit was 86 cents per share, three cents higher than the average estimate of analysts polled by Thomson Reuters.

Stocks fall on inflation data, financial worries

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street fell sharply for a second straight session Tuesday after a hefty jump in wholesale inflation and a drop in new home construction gave investors more reason to believe an economic recovery is far off. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 130 points. The Labor Department said its Producer Price Index rose by 1.2 percent in July, more than double the expected rate, and lifting the current annual rate to the loftiest level in 27 years. Even after stripping out food and energy, core prices rose by a higher-than-expected 0.7 percent, the biggest increase since November 2006. The Dow fell 130.84, or 1.14 percent, to 11,348.55, after losing 180 points on Monday. It was the worst two-day performance for the blue-chip index since late June.

GM offers employee discount to all on 2008 models

NEW YORK (AP)—General Motors Corp. said Tuesday it will extend employee discounts to everyone on almost all of its 2008 and some of its 2009 models as it seeks to clear its remaining inventory of 2008 vehicles.

The Detroit automaker said it will offer employee prices on all 2008 vehicles except its medium-duty trucks. It will also extend the incentive on a handful of 2009 models.

Employee discounts generally are 10 percent below the invoice price but vary by model.

The discount comes at a time when GM, the largest U.S. automaker, is struggling to boost its declining sales amid a weak economy and a rapid shift in demand away from its traditionally popular trucks and SUVs. GM's U.S. sales fell 26 percent in July and are down 18 percent year to date, through it was still the top-selling automaker in the U.S. in both categories.

Shares of the company fell 41 cents, or 4 p ercent, to $9.95 Tuesday.

GM has offered limited employee pricing in the past, but Tuesday's announcement is the first time since 2005 the automaker extended the incentive to all buyers. The sale was wildly successful then, boosting its June U.S. sales 41 percent, July sales 19 percent and prompting both Ford Motor Co. and then-DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group to unveil their own employee-pricing plans.

"It was obviously very successful last time around," GM spokesman John McDonald said in an interview, but he added that the auto market is much weaker this year and the program may be less effective.

Apple says battery problem caused iPod overheating

SEATTLE (AP)—Apple Inc. said Tuesday that batteries from a single supplier are to blame for the meltdown of some models of its tiny iPod Nano digital music player.

The company's written statement came in response to a Japanese government report that two iPod Nanos overheated in Tokyo, scorching nearby paper and a woven straw mat.

Apple said the flaw affected first-generation Nanos, sold between September 2005 and December 2006, in very rare instances. The company's statement added that "There have been no reports of serious injuries or property damage, and no reports of incidents for any other iPod Nano model."

Japan's government has been working with Apple to investigate three separate cases of iPods that overheated while being recharged, according to Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry official Hiroyuki Yoshitsune. A defect in the lithium-ion battery was suspected in all three cases.

Millions of lithium-ion laptop batteries made by Sony for Apple, Dell Inc., Lenovo Inc. and other PC makers were recalled in 2006 and 2007 after it was discovered that they could overheat and ignite.

Apple did not immediately return a call seeking the name of the company that made the iPod batteries in question. Yoshitsune declined to name the supplier.

No one was injured during the two Tokyo incidents disclosed Tuesday. Yoshitsune said the cases involved an iPod Nano, model number MA099, which singed nearby paper in August, and model MA005, which burned a traditional Japanese tatami mat in January. Both music players were twisted out of shape from the heat and became unusable, he said.

Nation

Obama, VP choice to campaign on Saturday

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Barack Obama's newly minted running mate will join the Democratic hopeful onstage Saturday at a rally in this capital city where Obama launched his White House bid, a campaign official said. A senior Obama adviser told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday that Obama and his veep choice will appear in front of the former state Capitol where Abraham Lincoln once served. The last time Obama appeared there, he announced he was running for president

The disclosure narrowed the window Obama has to reveal his running mate. The list of possibilities is widely believed to be down to Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh and Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, who planned to campaign with Obama Thursday in his home state.

■■■

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A combative Barack Obama said Tuesday that Republican John McCain "doesn't know what he's up against" in this election and challenged his rival to stop questioning his character and patriotism.

Obama, campaigning in a state where he hopes to become the first Democratic presidential candidate to win in more than three decades, implored his supporters to fight for the presidency. "Our job in this election is not just 'win,' although I'm a big believer in winning," Obama said during the rally. "I don't intend to lose this election. John McCain doesn't know what he's up against."

"He can talk all he wants about Britney (Spears) and Paris (Hilton), but I don't have time for that mess," Obama said.

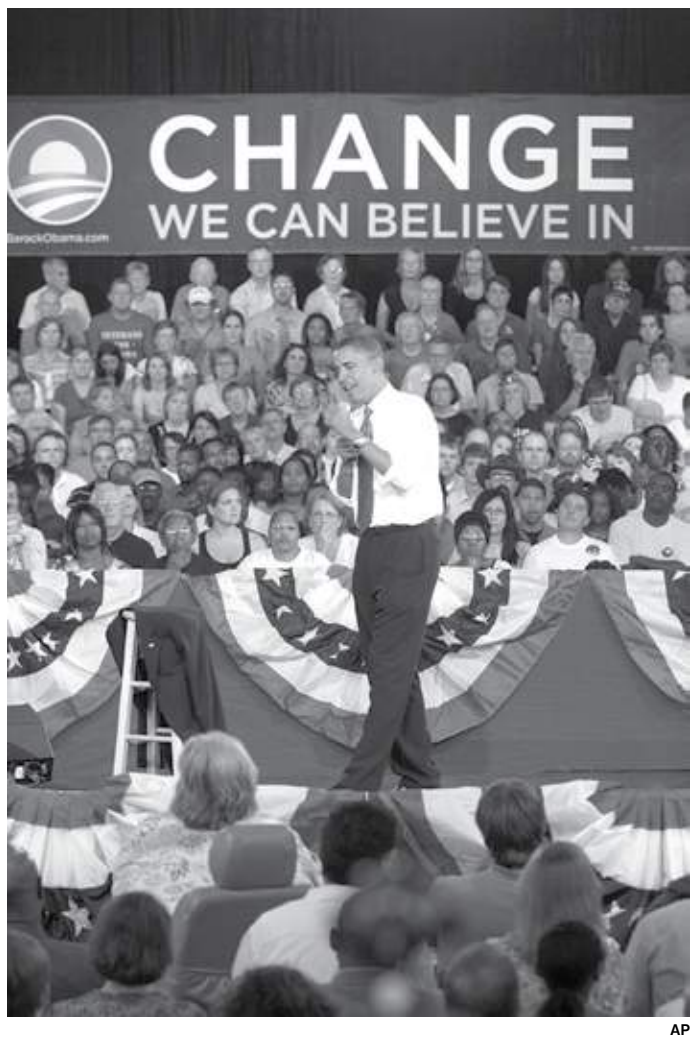
■■■

Obama strategist Anita Dunn wouldn't respond directly when asked if the Springfield event would be Obama's first appearance with his choice, but she suggested the two wouldn't necessarily be related. The campaign has said it will announce the choice in a cell phone text message to supporters.

"We could pick up the V.P. any time," Dunn said in an interview.

The campaign's announcement said only that the Illinois senator would begin his trip to the party's national convention at Saturday's event. The Democratic National Convention begins Monday in Denver.

At a town-hall meeting in Raleigh, N.C., Obama repeatedly said "he" when discussing the qualities he sought in a potential running mate, even as campaign officials cautioned not to read much into his choice of pronouns.



AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. speaks at a town hall meeting, Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008, at North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, N.C.

'Boomerang' Fay strengthens over Florida

NAPLES, Fla. (AP)—Tropical Storm Fay rolled ashore in southwestern Florida on Tuesday without much fanfare, but stubbornly hung around like an unwelcome houseguest, gaining power and threatening—once again—to become a hurricane.

The storm first hit the Florida Keys, veered out to sea and then traversed east across the state on a path that would curve it toward to the Florida-Georgia border. The failure of Fay to weaken meant a whole new swath of the state had to prepare for a worse storm, and meant Florida could wind up getting hit three separate times. "This storm is going to be with us for a while. That's obvious now. It looks it could be a boomerang storm," Gov. Charlie Crist said at a news conference.

Earlier in the day, it had appeared that Fay would simply peter out and perhaps bring nothing but heavy rains to the southeastern United States. But by late Tuesday, a hurricane watch was posted for parts of north Florida and Georgia as Fay seemed to be resurrected by the flat, swampy Everglades, increasing the chances it could still end up strengthening into a hurricane. Its top sustained winds increased during the day by 5 mph to 65 mph. A hurricane has winds of at least 74 mph.

At 5 p.m. EDT, the center of the storm was about 60 miles south-southwest of Melbourne and was moving north-northeast near 8 mph.

Researcher says Bigfoot just a rubber gorilla suit

ATLANTA (AP)—Turns out Bigfoot was just a rubber suit. Two researchers on a quest to prove the existence of Bigfoot say that the carcass encased in a block of ice—handed over to them for an undisclosed sum by two men who claimed to have found it—was slowly thawed out, and discovered to be a rubber gorilla outfit.

The revelation comes just days after a much ballyhooed news conference was held in California to proclaim that the remains of the creature were found in the North Georgia mountains was the legendary man-ape.

Steve Kulls, executive director of squatchdetective.com and host of Squatchdetective Radio, says in a posting on a Web site run by Bigfoot researcher Tom Biscardi that as the "evidence" was thawed, the claim began to unravel as a giant hoax.

First, the hair sample was burned and "melted into a ball uncharacteristic of hair," Kulls said in the posting.

The thawing process was sped up and the exposed head was found to be "unusually hollow in one small section." An hour of thawing later and the feet were exposed—and they were found to be made of rubber. Matt Whitton, an officer who has been on medical leave from the Clayton County Police Department, and Rick Dyer, a former Georgia corrections officer, announced the find in early July on YouTube videos and a Web site.

States throw out costly electronic voting machines

The demise of touch-screen voting has produced a graveyard of expensive corpses: Warehouses stacked with thousands of carefully wrapped voting machines that have been shelved because of doubts about vanishing votes and vulnerability to hackers.

What to do with this high-tech junkyard is a multimillion-dollar question. One manufacturer offered $1 a piece to take back its ATM-like machines. Some states are offering the devices for sale on eBay and craigslist. Others hope to sell their inventories to Third-World countries or salvage them for scrap. A few more are holding out hope that the machines, some of which were purchased for as much as $5,000, could one day be resurrected.

"We store them very, very carefully in the hopes that someone, someday may decide that we can use them again," said San Diego County Registrar Deborah Seiler, whose jurisdiction spent $25 million on the devices.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. After the disputed 2000 presidential recount, Congress provided more than $3 billion to replace punch card and lever-operated machines. State officials across the country said the new systems would eliminate human error and political tampering.

But problems with the machines soon followed: vanishing votes, breakdowns, malfunctions and increasing evidence that the devices were vulnerable to hackers.

Beginning last year, states including California, Ohio and Florida abruptly ordered election officials to mothball their electronic machines. Over the last two years, the percentage of registered voters relying on touch-screen technology dropped from 44 percent to 36 percent. In November, when the presidential race between Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain ends, an estimated 57 percent of voters will rely on paper ballots.

But reverting to paper has caused its own problems. During this year's primary season, record numbers of voters showed up. That caused ballots to run out, which delayed the often-cumbersome task of feeding paper ballots into scanning machines.

AP

Kathi Payne, left, elections analyst and Kari Verjil, elections director for San Bernardino County pose at the Registrar of Voters warehouse with thousands of mothballed touch-screen voting machines on Tuesday Aug. 19, 2008 in San Bernardino, Calif.

ACROSS THE NATION

NJ congressman in Georgia to help trapped sisters

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey congressman has arrived in the Republic of Georgia in an effort to bring home two young girls stuck overseas since the conflict with Russia began. The office of Rep. Christopher H. Smith says he landed in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi (tuh-BLEE'-see) on Tuesday. Smith spokeswoman Mary McDermott Noonan says 7-year-old Ashley and 3-year-old Sophia Evans were discussed in meetings with Georgian officials. The Evans girls were visiting their maternal grandparents when Russian troops invaded Georgia nearly two weeks ago. Russian checkpoints have blocked their paths to escape. The State Department says about 30 U.S. citizens under 18 are in Georgia without their parents.

FBI: Pa. student hoped to breed sex slave society

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A Pennsylvania medical student told a classmate he was trying to recruit a New Zealand woman and her 4-year-old daughter to start a society of sex slaves that would live on a farm or island, the FBI said. The FBI said in an affidavit filed Aug. 13 that it began investigating Jeremy Noyes, 30, of Erie, after someone tipped them off about his efforts to recruit the New Zealand woman and girl to come to the United States. They said he also possessed child pornography. The tipster, using a pseudonym, submitted a complaint on an FBI Web page in June in which she wrote, "Noyes has threatened to kill me and my family ... (and) will not rest until we are dead. All the evidence you need is in his computer and that little girl's mind. Please save her."

Flooding recedes in South Texas after foot of rain

McALLEN, Texas (AP)—Flooding receded Tuesday in southern Texas and main highways reopened after a deluge of as much as 13 inches of rain, as the drenching weather shifted to the northern end of the state and Oklahoma. Torrential rain flooded an estimated 1,400 homes by Tuesday in Starr County, and at least 243 people evacuated, said Natividad Gonzalez of the county sheriff's department. There were no serious injuries, but receding floodwaters revealed damaged roads, sinkholes and overwhelmed sewer systems.

Girl from polygamist group ordered into state care

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—A 14-year-old girl allegedly married to jailed polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs with her parents' blessing at age 12 was ordered back into foster care Tuesday by a Texas judge. District Judge Barbara Walther said that there was "uncontroverted evidence of the underage marriage" and that the girl's mother, Barbara Jessop, refused to guarantee the girl's safety. The girl, shown in photographs submitted to the court kissing Jeffs, must immediately enter foster care. Her 11-year-old brother, whom Texas child welfare authorities also wanted placed in foster care, will be allowed to stay with his mother but will have to undergo psychological evaluation in the next month.

Asia

Afghan militants kill 10 French, strike at US base

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pirates seize Malaysian tanker off Somalia's coast

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A global maritime watchdog says pirates have seized a Malaysian tanker and its crew of more than 20 off Somalia's coast in the Gulf of Eden. Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur, says the center picked up a distress signal late Tuesday. He says the center immediately notified Western naval ships patrolling the area. Choong said Wednesday that a warship has been sent to intercept the tanker, which is heading toward Somalia territorial waters. He says that this is the fourth hijacking in Somalia within a month. He says the tanker is carrying palm oil and was headed from Indonesia to Europe when it was attacked. It was unclear when the raid took place.

Typhoon Nuri dumps heavy rains in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A powerful typhoon packing winds of 87 mph battered the northern Philippines with heavy rains Wednesday, closing schools and putting authorities on alert for flash floods and landslides. The eye of Typhoon Nuri, with gusts of up to 106 mph, skirted the northeastern tip of the archipelago in Cagayan province, but its outer bands engulfed most of the mountainous northern provinces where schools were closed and storm alerts raised. The head of the Philippine weather bureau, Nathaniel Cruz, said Nuri was a powerful system and would likely gain strength as it slowly moves northwest at 13 mph across Babuyan and Calayan islands in the Luzon Strait toward Hong Kong and Guangdong in eastern China.

Safe sex ring tone sings 'condom, condom!'

NEW DELHI (AP)—A cell phone ring tone that sings "Condom, condom!" has been launched to promote safe sex in India, where condoms carry a strong social stigma and HIV and AIDS are growing problems, health experts said Tuesday. The a cappella ring tone features a professional singer chanting the word condom more than 50 times, a playful approach that public health activists hope will spark discussion and make condoms more socially acceptable. Nearly 2.5 million people in India are infected with HIV and the disease is still largely taboo.

Afghan president says he will run for office again

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai says he would like to run for re-election next year. Karzai tells The Associated Press in an exclusive interview that he has a job to complete and that "in that sense, yes, I would like to run." Karzai has hinted in the past that he plans to run for the presidency in 2009, but his Tuesday announcement to AP is the first time he has stated so outright. The Afghan president is a strong ally of the United States, but he has stepped up his criticism of international military forces in recent months for bombing runs that cause Afghan civilian deaths.

China detains 6 US pro-Tibet activists in Beijing

BEIJING (AP)—Police detained five American activists Tuesday after they unfurled a "free Tibet" banner near a key Olympics venue in Beijing, according to a pro-Tibet group. An American graffiti artist, who planned to use laser beams to flash the same message on buildings in the Chinese capital, was also detained, according to a colleague and Students for a Free Tibet. The five protesters were taken away by security shortly before midnight for displaying the banner, which outlined "free Tibet" in English and Chinese with tiny blue diodes, near the Beijing National Stadium, the group said in a statement.

Indian teenager arrested in deadly iPod dispute

CALCUTTA, India (AP)—A 14-year-old school boy in eastern India has been arrested on suspicion of murdering a younger student who refused to hand over her iPod, police said Tuesday. The boy allegedly pushed the 10-year-old girl off a 30-foot bridge then climbed down and strangled her unconscious body on Monday, said Swapan Banerjee, the officer in charge of the local police station in Seuri, a town in West Bengal state. "It was a murder with intention. He murdered her in anger because she refused to part with the gadget," Banerjee said. The boy, who tried to hide the body behind a bush, was arrested, Banerjee said. If convicted of murder, the boy could be sent to a juvenile detention center for up to 10 years.

SUROBI, Afghanistan (AP)—Insurgents mounted two of the biggest attacks in years on Western forces in Afghanistan, killing 10 French soldiers in a mountain ambush and then sending a squad of suicide bombers in a failed assault early Tuesday on a U.S. base near the Pakistan border.

The audacious strikes suggested a bolder insurgency is now willing to launch frontal assaults on U.S. and NATO troops.

Only months ago, militants shied away from large-scale attacks because of the heavy losses they could incur when jet fighters appeared overhead, NATO and U.S. officials said.

But the Taliban and other militant groups appear increasingly willing to commit large numbers of foot soldiers to onslaughts that attempt to overwhelm small groups of U.S. and NATO troops. Just last month, some 200 militants attacked a small U.S. outpost in Afghanistan's eastern mountains, penetrating its perimeter and killing nine American soldiers.

The suicide attack Tuesday on Camp Salerno, the U.S. base that serves as the logistics hub for the war's eastern front, began just after midnight when a team of attackers dressed in military fatigues was spotted on the horizon.

Afghan and U.S. forces confronted the militants some 1,000 yards from the base entrance, while fighter aircraft attacked from the air. Once surrounded, three suicide bombers blew themselves up, and three more were shot to death, NATO said in a statement. It said a seventh militant was also killed and two NATO soldiers were wounded.

The French soldiers were on a reconnaissance mission when they were ambushed Monday afternoon by a force of about 100 militants in the mountains of Surobi, an insurgent redoubt 30 miles east of the Afghan capital of Kabul France's top military official, Gen. Jean-Louis Georgelin, said most of the French casualties came in the minutes after the soldiers ascended a mountain pass. Battles ensued and 21 French soldiers were wounded. French Defense Minister Herve Morin said about 30 militants were killed and 30 wounded, while Afghan officials said at least 13 militants were killed. Taliban fighters and militants allied to renegade warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar operate in Surobi.

AP

Student Arnel Andales surveys what remains of their school building Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008 in Kolambugan town in southern Philippines after it was burnt by Muslim rebels.

Pakistan army chief in Kabul after Musharraf quits

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Pakistan's army chief made a surprise visit to Afghanistan Tuesday for border security talks with NATO and Afghan commanders, just a day after Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf announced his resignation.

Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani spoke with President Hamid Karzai over the phone in Kabul on Tuesday, three officials told The Associated Press. Kayani's visit was striking in that even Afghanistan's top leadership did not know he was coming, officials said.

But Pakistan's military spokesman, Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said the trip was scheduled at least a month and a half ago and was part of a series of tripartite meetings designed to underpin cross-border cooperation against insurgents.

Earlier Tuesday, Karzai, in his first public response to Musharraf's resignation, appealed for a fresh approach to what has often been a troubled relationship between the two neighbors.

"I wish President Musharraf all the best. We have had difficult days together, but also we had good days together. All in all, we had a good relationship," Karzai told the AP in an interview. "The most important thing . . . is not personalities. What is important is that we change our expectations and the way we formulate policies to meet those expectations," he said.

Karzai has been a strident critic of sanctuaries within Pakistan where he says insurgent Taliban and other militants regroup, rearm and train to fight in Afghanistan.

Karzai stopped short of accusing Pakistan of official support for the insurgency but said, "If they are doing that in order to get strategic depth, it will not happen. It has been tried before. It failed. If they are doing that in order to have a puppet government, it will not happen, it will not work.

RP troops clash anew with rebels; 1 soldier wounded

ILIGAN, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels clashed anew with Philippine troops Wednesday, wounding one soldier and threatening a fragile peace process after a guerrilla rampage killed at least 37 people and displaced about 44,000.

About 30 Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels attacked an army patrol base at Shariff Aguak in Maguindanao province, and the military responded with mortar and howitzer fire, regional military spokesman Maj. Armand Rico said. A lieutenant was wounded, he said.

"The enemy is withdrawing and we're conducting pursuit and blocking operations," he said.

The latest fighting fanned more tensions in the southern Philippines, where a 2003 ceasefire and an uncertain peace process between the rebels and the government is at risk of unraveling following Monday's carnage in which the rebels shot or hacked to death civilians in five coastal towns.

The rebel leadership denied ordering the attacks, saying they were launched by renegade local commanders frustrated at delays to finalizing a peace agreement.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno announced a 5 million peso (US$113,000) arrest bounty on two rebel commanders—Abdullah Macapaar, also known as Bravo, who led the latest attacks, and Ameril Umbra Kato, who led the occupation of predominantly Christian villages in the south last week.

Vietnam releases Gary Glitter from prison

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP)—Authorities freed British glam rocker Gary Glitter from prison in southern Vietnam on Tuesday, sending the convicted child molester into an uncertain future after nearly three years of confinement.

Glitter

Glitter, 64, left Vietnam on a flight to Bangkok on which he was seated in business class in an apparent effort to shield him from reporters also on the plane. He wore a broad-brimmed cap and wrapped a scarf over part of his face, even as he read a magazine.

According to a Thai Airways staff member, who insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to release such information, Glitter was booked to continue on to London. The British Broadcasting Corp. reported later that Glitter refused to board the Britain flight for health reasons.

Glitter, whose real name is Paul Francis Gadd, was convicted in March 2006 of committing "obscene acts with children." He served 2 years and 9 months of a three-year sentence, which was reduced for good behavior.

World

Bomber kills 43 at Algerian police academy

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—A suicide bomber drove a car full of explosives into a line of applicants at an Algerian police academy Tuesday, killing at least 43 people in the deadliest terror attack to jolt this energy-rich U.S. ally since the 1990s.

Witnesses said the blast in the town of Les Issers, some 35 miles east of Algiers, tore a 3-foot-deep crater in the road, ripped off parts of the police academy's roof and damaged much of its facade and nearby buildings.

Bodies covered with multicolored blankets lay amid rubble on the ground. The carcass of a charred car was on its side, its doors blown outward. Singed clothes were piled on a curb.

No group immediately claimed responsibility, but an al-Qaida affiliate previously said it was behind a series of bombings over the past two years in this North African country that has important oil and natural gas fields.

Violence has dramatically increased since 2006, when Algeria's last big extremist group left over from a quieted insurgency in the 1990s renamed itself Al-Qaida in Islamic North Africa and joined Osama bin Laden's network.

Suicide attacks were unheard of in Algeria before the group linked up with al-Qaida.

Al-Qaida in Islamic North Africa claimed it carried out suicide strikes in Algiers that killed 33 people in April 2007, and bombings in the capital last December that killed 41 people, including 17 U.N. employees.

While some attacks have struck foreigners, most have targeted the Algerian military and national security services, which are controlled by secularist generals.

AP

A soldier passes a car damaged by the explosion, after a suicide car bomber rammed into a police academy, in the town of Les Issers, in the Boumerdes region, 60 kilometers (35 miles) east Algiers, Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008.

Russia moves toward pullback

POTI, Georgia (AP)—Russia took the first steps toward a troop pullback from Georgia on Tuesday but at the same time paraded blindfolded and bound Georgian prisoners on armored vehicles and seized four U.S. Humvees.

The mixed signals came as NATO allies met in emergency session in Belgium and demanded Russia fulfill its promise to withdraw its forces from the small former Soviet republic.

A small Russian column including three tanks, three trucks, five armored personnel carriers and a rocket-launcher left Gori, the central city that straddles a vital east-west highway. A Russian officer said they were headed for South Ossetia, the disputed province at the heart of the conflict, then home to Russia.

The move toward withdrawal came on the same day as a powerful image of Russia's grip over Georgia: Russian trucks and armored vehicles carrying about 20 Georgian men, blindfolded, handcuffed and held at gunpoint.

They were taken from the western city of Poti to the nearby, Russian-controlled military base in Senaki, according to Poti's mayor, who said he had been told they would be released on Wednesday.

Iraqi Sunnis outraged over Diyala raids, arrests

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's largest Sunni party accused government security forces of sectarian bias Tuesday after soldiers arrested a Sunni university president and a Sunni provincial council member northeast of Baghdad

The raids in Diyala province follow an Iraqi crackdown there against U.S.-backed Sunni Arab volunteers who turned against al-Qaida and joined the fight against the terror movement

The moves are likely to heighten Sunni suspicions about the Shiite-led national government at a time when the U.S. sees progress in tamping down the sectarian hatreds that brought Iraq to the brink of civil war two years ago. Before dawn Tuesday, Iraqi troops backed by U.S. helicopters swooped down on the provincial government complex in Baqouba, Diyala's capital about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

The troops stormed the office of the provincial governor, Raad Rashid al-Tamimi, triggering a gunfight that killed his secretary and wounded four of his guards, police said.

The Sunni head of the provincial council's security committee, Hussein al-Zubaidi, was arrested, police said.

Not just guns: Gazans smuggle lions into zoo

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—The monkeys and lions were drugged, tossed into cloth sacks and dragged through smuggling tunnels under the border between Egypt and the besieged Gaza Strip before ending up in a dusty Gaza zoo. Stocked almost entirely with smuggled animals, the "Heaven of Birds and Animals Zoo" is a sign of Gaza's ever-expanding tunnel industry.

Dozens of passages are believed to snake under the border, serving as a mainstay of the local economy and a way to smuggle in everything from cigarettes to lingerie to automatic weapons.

And smugglers say a new effort by Egypt to blow up the passages will have little effect on the flow of goods.

Gaza's commercial trade was literally forced underground after the Islamic militant Hamas seized the coastal territory last summer, prompting neighboring Israel and Egypt to restrict movement through commercial crossings.

AP

African lion cubs are inside a cage at the "Heaven of Birds and Animals Zoo" in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008.

While Israel has allowed more goods in since a June truce with Hamas, it is not enough to meet Gaza's needs. Tunnel smugglers fill the gaps, bringing in contraband drugs and guns and more mundane items like frilly underwear and laptop computers, as well as exotic animals like the lion and lioness that pace in a cage at the Rafah zoo.

They were purchased as cubs from Egypt for $3,000 each, drugged and dragged through a tunnel in sacks. Zoo manager Shadi Fayiz said he went through a middleman to put in his order.

At the small zoo, where umbrellas shade battered couches, there is a parrot who was slipped through a tunnel in a cage. He can ask for a kiss in Arabic, startling veiled Gazan women walking by, Fayiz said.

Two monkeys were bought together as babies. So were three spindly legged gazelles, one of whom bit several tunnel smugglers when they forgot to sedate it, Fayiz said.

All told, his animals cost over $40,000. Fayiz opened shop in June.

"Without the tunnels, I couldn't have done this," the 23-year-old said.

Egypt, under Israeli pressure, has ratcheted up its efforts in recent weeks to destroy the passages, blasting tunnel entrances on its side. But smugglers say they can easily build new ones.

"You can't kill a snake," said a middleman who goes by Abu Mohammed, referring to the passages by their Gazan slang name, "hayyeh," the Arabic word snake.

Like other traders interviewed by The Associated Press, he declined to give his full name, fearing retribution from Egypt and tax demands from Gaza's Hamas rulers.

Zambian President Mwanawasa, 59

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP)—Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa, who broke the African tradition of silence and solidarity among leaders to denounce neighboring Zimbabwe's economic ruin, died in a French military hospital Tuesday. He was 59. Mwanawasa had suffered a stroke and collapsed at an African Union summit in Egypt in June, which cost Zimbabweans the voice of one of their few champions on the continent.

Mwanawasa

French President Nicolas Sarkozy called Mwanawasa's death "a great loss for the African continent" and for democracy.

Mwanawasa was airlifted from Egypt to France's Percy Military Hospital, where he remained until he had an urgent operation on Monday and died on Tuesday, according to Vice President Rupiah Banda.

Banda made the televised announcement "with great grief and deep sorrow."

Mwanawasa's illness precipitated power struggles within and between Zambia's political parties and his death leaves a power vacuum. Mwanawasa did not groom a successor, and Banda was expected to continue as acting president until an election that must be held within in 90 days.

He is survived by his wife Maureen and six children. Funeral plans were not immediately announced.

Environment

Matthew Blanco, left, distributes the State of the Coral Reef report to a shopper at Dolphin Wholesale. Blanco was an intern for DEQ's outreach program.

One busy summer!

By MATTHEW BLANCO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

To many, summer is a time to be free of any type of work. It is a time for many who just finished a long school year to enjoy themselves. Unlike most people, I pretty much didn't have any free time at all this summer. I've had a part time job for almost two years now, and on top of that I took on *another job*! I was granted the opportunity to work for the Division of Environmental Quality as an Education and Outreach Intern under the Coral Reef Initiative. Two jobs kept me busy, and with pretty much no extra time at all. But who's to say that I didn't enjoy myself? I've experienced so many things in one summer that I never thought I was capable of doing. Of course I enjoyed myself!

My main project as an Education and Outreach Intern was to go to select villages, walk around house to house, and give them a few environment friendly tips. The first topic I discussed was marine debris/littering. To make it simple, marine debris is ocean trash. Common marine debris in the CNMI includes aluminum cans, plastics, cigarette butts, and glass. As many of you have noticed, it is an ugly sight to see and it's really embarrassing. Our tourists come to the CNMI to enjoy our beautiful seas and for them to see trash floating around our ocean isn't such a pleasant sight.

Not only is it just plain ugly, it also harms our marine life. Our marine life gets harmed when they eat marine debris. Sometimes they choke on it and die, other times it makes them sick. Another way it harms our marine life is when they get tangled in marine debris, oftentimes causing injury as they struggle to get out. We can greatly reduce this problem if we work together and clean up litter we see in the ocean or even on the ground, because it's bound to find its way to the ocean if we just leave it there. Even the little pieces of trash count! Next time you have a picnic at the beach, clean up after yourself! Don't just leave your trash around.

The second topic that I discussed was carbon dioxide emissions (driving tips). I taught the people that driving emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and it harms our ozone. However, there are ways that you can reduce the amount of carbon that goes into the atmosphere by being a more cautious driver. These driving tips include following the speed limit, inflating your tires to the right PSI to cause less resistance, keeping unnecessary heavy things out of your car, not idling, carpooling to work or school, walking to a close destination, etc. These tips can help make a better environment.

The third topic that I talked about was conserving energy. Everyone wants to use less power for obvious reasons. The power rates from CUC have gone up and everyone is paying a lot more than they used to on electricity. Another reason why they should conserve energy is because it also emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. I gave them a few tips on saving energy that they might not have known before, such as using a compact fluorescent light bulb other than the regular incandescent one. A lot of the people I talk to respond positively when I hand them brochures with energy saving tips. Many say things like "Thanks! This could really help!" and then they start complaining about CUC. It's good to know that I'm not only helping the environment, but I'm helping the people save money.

The last topic that I touched on was recycling. I pretty much taught some people what recycling is, what to recycle, and where to drop it off (The Lower Base Transfer Station). I also told them that they could make money if they do recycle and that it will also save them money because they won't need the garbage collector to come very often. I also related it to marine debris. We will have less marine debris if trash is recycled.

Of course it was quite challenging because I didn't know what kind of person would open the front door, whether it be a really mean person or someone who couldn't speak English. Not to mention that most (if not all) of the villages on Saipan have crazy dogs who bark and chase. However, many people responded positively to my short presentation. One lady told me that she didn't realize that driving affects the environment at all! Another proudly told me that her entire family makes an effort to recycle their cans and bottles. Being able to give them that advice and information is a very rewarding feeling. It's only rewarding because I know that I have played a part in helping our environment by spreading the word.

My mentor Reina Camacho and I realized that doing house to house outreach was getting too difficult because a lot of people were at work, and sometimes they were still asleep (we did our outreach in the morning). So we came up with another idea. Instead of us going to people's houses, we'll make them come to us...in a way. I, along with DFW's education and outreach intern, Teresa Miller, started doing our outreach together at stores. I handed out our State of the Reef Report as well as some brochures that have tips on ways to save energy and keep our environment clean. We went to stores such as Carmen's Safeway, Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Joeten Susupe, Joeten DanDan, Dolphin Wholesale, etc. At Hafa Adai Shopping Center, one man was encouraging us to keep educating people because he really LOVES the CNMI and it's a place that he calls home. I have always felt that way, but I am more encouraged to keep educating people on how they can be more environment-friendly; and am relieved to know that I was not the only person that truly loves the CNMI. I think that the house to house outreach was a good approach but this was a better idea because we didn't have to catch people at the wrong time and we were pretty much always guaranteed that people would be there.

On the sidelines, I have been reading environment-related books to kids at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library every week; I've been updating our Exhibitor Resource List for the annual Environmental Fair; and I've also updated our Coral Reef Education Catalog. To make it easier for my mentor, I've contacted all the schools to get updated contact information for outreach purposes/school presentations.

I've contacted the media to get information on their readership, viewership, and listenership so we could get started on our educational advertising. I've also done presentations about marine debris and recycling to different clubs and centers such as the 4H club.

I also had the opportunity to participate in Health Promotion Council meetings, I did a reef flat survey at Bird Island, and I've also done a beach clean-up at Old Man by the Sea which was really fun because I've never been there before!

Being a part of this internship has been a complete blessing. I've met so many great people and I've learned so much information about our environment. It really feels good knowing that I made a difference in helping out our environment, whether it is a big difference or small difference. I've learned here that *every* act counts and one simple good deed can work wonders.

Now that I've completed my internship and my summer is just about over, I'm packing my bags and moving to Portland, Oregon to start off my college education! It's an overwhelming feeling leaving home, but once I receive a college degree, I'll be back to help make our home even better and more beautiful. "Doing what?" you may ask. The answer is…who knows? Only time will tell!

Matthew Blanco is the Education Outreach Intern for the Division of Environmental Quality.

Going back to school? Go green

CoCo

As you prepare your child for the new school year, have the earth in mind and try going green. It's not as difficult as it sounds, in fact, these are ideas you may have already thought about and needed this little reminder.

Kids like getting something new each year, but new does not always be brand new, but different. Your kids can reuse an existing backpack instead of buying a brand new one. Check out the garage sales around island, you're bound to find something for next-to-nothing.

Keep your child hydrated and invest in a reusable water bottle, instead of continuously buying plastic bottles or those darned non-recyclable tetra-paks.

There are also a variety of reusable containers available to store snacks and lunch instead of brown bagging it or using the conventional plastic sandwich bags.

Recycled notebook or binder paper is available at local school supply outlets.

Don't forget to involve your child as you organize for the new school year; this is a perfect opportunity to talk with him or her about the importance of protecting our resources. This also sets the stage for environmental stewardship as they grow up.

The future of solar-powered buses and organic school lunches will be coming around, in the meantime, though, we can take small steps to go green and protect our earth. ***(CoCo)***

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

If you lined up all the foam cups made in just one day, how far would they reach?

A. 1 mile B. Around the Earth C. Across the United States

Answer: B. Incredible!! Foam cups produced in a single day can circle the entire planet…and reach a little farther too!

Tip of the week:

AVOID using Styrofoam.

■ Foam is a kind of plastic, but unlike plastic bags or bottles, this foam is not recyclable. Foam is permanent garbage. Five hundred years from now, a boy might be digging in his backyard and find a piece of foam cup you drank lemonade from on a picnic last week.

■ Foam is a danger to sea animals. Floating in the water, it looks like their food. Ingested foam eventually clogs their systems and then can make them starve to death. ***(CoCo)***

Life & Style

China's Olympic ceremony features sacrifices

BEIJING (AP)—Martial arts student Cheng Jianghua only saw the army barracks he stayed in and the stadium where he performed at the spectacular Olympics opening ceremony. But his sacrifices were minor—other performers were injured, fainted from heatstroke or forced to wear adult diapers so the show could go on.

Filmmaker Zhang Yimou, the ceremony's director, insisted in an interview with local media that suffering and sacrifice were required to pull off the Aug. 8 opening, which involved wrangling nearly 15,000 cast and crew. Only North Korea could have done it better, he said.

But some news reports have raised questions about the lengths to which Beijing went in trying to create a perfect start to the Summer Games.

Chinese officials were accused of fakery for using computer-generated images to enhance the show's fireworks display for TV viewers.

Organizers also have been criticized about their decision to have a 9-year-old girl lip-synch "Ode to the Motherland" because the real singer was deemed not cute enough.

Performers have complained that they sustained injuries from slipping during rain-drenched rehearsals or fainting from heatstroke amid hours of training under the relentless summer sun. Cheng and 2,200 other carefully chosen pugilist prodigies spent an average of 16 hours a day, every day, rehearsing a synchronized tai-chi routine involving high kicks, sweeping lunges and swift punches. They lived for three months in trying conditions at a restricted army camp on the outskirts of Beijing.

"We never went out during the time we were training," Cheng, 20, told the AP in a phone interview. "Our school is quite strict. When we stay in school we can't go out on our own, let alone when we're at a military camp."

AP

In this Aug. 8, 2008 file photo, Chinese martial arts students perform during the opening ceremony for the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

In the most extreme case, Beijing organizers revealed last week that Liu Yan, a 26-year-old dancer, was seriously injured during a July rehearsal. Shanghai media reported that she fell from a 10-foot stage and may be permanently paralyzed from the waist down.

Zhang, the ceremony's director, visited Liu in the hospital and has told Chinese media that he deeply regrets what happened to her—but he has also defended the training schedule his performers endured.

He told the popular Guangzhou weekly newspaper Southern Weekend that only communist North Korea could have done a better job getting thousands of performers to move in perfect unison.

"North Korea is No. 1 in the world when it comes to uniformity. They are uniform beyond belief! These kind of traditional synchronized movements result in a sense of beauty. We Chinese are able to achieve this as well. Though hard training and strict discipline," he said. Pyongyang's annual mass games feature 100,000 people moving in lockstep.

Performers in the West by contrast need frequent breaks and cannot withstand criticism, Zhang said, citing his experience working on an opera performance abroad. Though he didn't mention specific productions, Zhang directed an opera at New York's Metropolitan Opera in 2006.

"In one week, we could only work four and a half days, we had to have coffee breaks twice a day, couldn't go into overtime and just a little discomfort was not allowed because of human rights," he said of the unidentified opera production.

See CHINA'S on Page 19

Propaganda on a mass scale at North Korean 'Games'

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Acrobats on cables flying across a giant stadium. Hundreds of performers executing synchronized martial arts punches and kicks. A giant globe signifying unity as a grand finale.

This isn't the opening ceremony at the Beijing Olympics. It's the grandiose North Korean spectacle of propaganda known as the mass games, and it's one of the few things the impoverished country can claim to do on an unmatched scale. "I think it's the most beautiful performance in the world," said Ri Nam, 21, a North Korean tour guide who hosted an international group of spectators for an edition of the show last week.

By the numbers, the North has China beat: The Pyongyang show has 100,000 performers, including 20,000 schoolchildren who form an animated mosaic on the entire back wall of May Day Stadium by flipping colored pages of large books. China had about 15,000 cast and crew.

The North Koreans' Bundt cake-shaped stadium may not have won the architectural accolades bestowed on China's new stadium, dubbed the Bird's Nest. But the Pyongyang venue seats more people—a reputed 150,000 versus 91,000 in Beijing.

The mass games are a feat of choreographed unity on a scale that is perhaps only imaginable in a country where citizens are indoctrinated to devote themselves entirely to the hardline regime.

Hundreds of boys waving red flags fill the entire field of artificial grass laid on the floor of the stadium. Women in pastel-colored traditional dresses wave scarves or large artificial flowers. Female soldiers in miniskirts brandish swords.

There are also circus-like acrobatics of synchronized jump-rope routines, gymnasts forming pyramids and spinning on high bars, and a human slingshot that launches performers in soaring arcs across the stadium to land in a net.

Mass games were once performed in many communist nations, but North Korea is the only place that still stages them regularly—another part of the frozen-in-time Cold War feeling here.

The North's prowess in orchestrating the displays was confirmed by a Guinness world record awarded last year for the "largest gymnastic and artistic performance."

When a TV network leaked video of the tightly guarded plans for the Beijing ceremony before the Olympics began, South Korean media even referred to it as the Chinese version of the mass games.

The North staged the event in 2002, 2005 and 2007, each time over a period of weeks, for a total of nearly 200 showings, according to the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

This year's shows began Aug. 4 and go on every day except Sunday—joined by a new, twice-a-week, "smaller," show of 50,000 performers titled "Prosper the Motherland."

The North's main production is officially called the Arirang mass games and is based on a traditional Korean folk song of the same name. Running some 90 minutes, the performance symbolizes the country's history, from the Japanese occupation of the peninsula in 1905 through the present and even into the future—imagining a reunited Korea

The show briefly flashes an image of late North Korean founder Kim Il Sung on the backdrop, one of the few overt signs of the cult of personality surrounding the man who, despite his death in 1994, technically remains the country's president.

The performance this year also includes a new scene titled "Girls Weaving Silk in Yongbyon," along with other changes. Yongbyon is the city that is home to the country's nuclear weapons program. Mass games "are a priority of our nation so we think our thing is the best," Son Jong Hyok, 29, an official with Korea International Youth and Children's Travel Com-

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Over 100,000 participants perform in the Mass Games held in Pyongyang, North Korea, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2008.

AP

Lennon's killer told parole board he's ashamed

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—John Lennon's killer told parole officials during his latest unsuccessful bid for release from prison that he is ashamed and sorry for gunning down the former Beatle nearly three decades ago.

Mark David Chapman was interviewed by the parole board for a fifth time Aug. 12 and was immediately denied release. A transcript of the hearing was made public Tuesday.

The 53-year-old Chapman told the parole panel that, over the years, he has come to realize the gravity of what he did, and how it affected not only Lennon, but his wife, children and anybody who knew him

"I recognized that that 25-year-old man, I don't think he really appreciated the life that he was taking, that this was a human being," he said. "I feel now at 53 I have grown into a deeper understanding of what a human life is. I have changed a lot." As he has in the past, he also told the parole board that he was seeking notoriety and fame to counter feelings of failure when he decided to kill Lennon.

"I would be something other than a nobody, and that was my reasoning at the time," Chapman said.

The former maintenance man from Hawaii has been in prison for nearly 28 years. He was sentenced to 20 years to life after pleading guilty to the murder. The parole board decision means he will remain in New York's Attica Correctional Facility for at least two more years.

In its brief decision, the two-member parole panel denied release "due to concern for the public safety and welfare."

Chapman fired five shots outside Lennon's Manhattan apartment building on Dec. 8, 1980, hitting Lennon four times in front of his wife, Yoko Ono, and others.

Ono, who has previously written the parole board arguing against Chapman's release, did not offer any testimony in his latest hearing.

Fifty others did, however, and 1,100 people signed a petition opposing his release. Three people wrote urging that he be set free, Heather Groll, a state Parole Division spokeswoman, said last week.

Chapman's next appearance before the board is scheduled for August 2010.

Funeral homes facing problem of abandoned ashes

BOSTON (AP)—The abandoned ashes are stacked floor to ceiling in the basement of the Graham, Putnam and Mahoney Funeral Parlors, tucked neatly on wooden shelves and tables and in an unused dumbwaiter. Someone loved the people once, enough to have their bodies cremated—then promptly forgot or decided they didn't want them.

"The fact is, if no one claims them, there's nothing you can do with them," said funeral director Peter Stefan, of Worcester. "You can't throw them away. They could be Uncle Freddy's ashes. They could come and sue you."

Storage or disposal of abandoned ashes is a growing national problem, as the number of cremations is on the rise. Even in states that allow the burial or scattering of abandoned ashes, some funeral homes store them for years, hoping one day to place them in the hands of a relative.

AP

Funeral director Peter Stefan poses next to boxes of unclaimed ashes at Graham, Putnam & Mahoney Funeral Parlors, Monday, Aug. 18, 2008 in Worcester, Mass.

A majority of states have laws setting minimum waiting periods for funeral homes to store unclaimed cremated remains, ranging from 60 days to four years. About a dozen states have no laws or regulations. A handful, like Massachusetts, just have regulations.

Massachusetts' regulations require funeral directors to contact next of kin and hold remains for six months. If the ashes remain unclaimed, the funeral home must contact the family by certified mail and wait another 60 days before disposing of the ashes.

Funeral directors worry the regulations don't carry the protections of a law, so they have been holding on to the ashes—just in case.

They've succeeded in getting a bill to Gov. Deval Patrick's desk requiring funeral homes hold unclaimed ashes for 12 months—after which they could be buried in a common grave, crypt or scattered in a cemetery.

The bill requires funeral homes to keep permanent records of the remains and frees them of legal liability. An aide for Patrick said he's reviewing the legislation.

David Walkinshaw, spokesman for Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association, said the vast majority of funeral homes in the state, including his own, have unclaimed remains.

"There needs to be a dignified way to finally put these people to rest and allow the funeral homes to do that under the law," said Walkinshaw, who has ashes dating back 30 to 40 years.

In 1975, just 6 percent of deaths in the United States resulted in cremations. By 2006, the number had grown to nearly 34 percent, according to the Cremation Association of North America. That could increase to more than half of all deaths by 2025.

The popularity of cremations varies greatly by state, from less than 10 percent of all deaths in Alabama and Mississippi to more than 60 percent in Hawaii, Nevada, Washington and Oregon. In Massachusetts, about 30 percent of those who die are cremated.

Unfortunately, some families may not realize that cremation isn't the end of the process, according to Dennis Werner, a member of the Cremation Association board and general manager of St. Michael's Cemetery and Crematory in the New York City borough of Queens.

"You'll hear people say all the time, 'Just cremate me and throw me in the river,'" Werner said. "The more the word gets out that cremation is not final disposition, that something still needs to be done ... the better off we will be."

While some of the forgotten ashes in the basement of his funeral home date to the 1890s, some are more recent, Stefan said.

He recalled cremating the remains of a stillborn baby and giving the small brass urn to the mother. When the mother moved, she left the urn behind. The new tenant discovered it and returned the urn to Stefan, who was able to track down the mother.

"I told her what happened, she said, 'I'll call you back,'" Stefan said. "That was four or five years ago."

Dave Matthews Band sax player LeRoi Moore dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dave Matthews Band saxophone player LeRoi Moore, one of the group's founding members and a key part of its eclectic jazz-infused sound, died Tuesday from injuries he sustained in an all-terrain vehicle accident in June. He was 46.

The band released a statement on its Web site confirming Moore died at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center.

Moore was initially hospitalized in late June after the ATV accident on his farm outside Charlottesville, Va. He was later discharged and had recently returned to his Los Angeles home to begin a physical rehabilitation program when complications forced him back to the hospital on July 17, the band said.

It was not immediately clear what complications occurred. Galina Shinder, a nursing supervisor at Hollywood Presbyterian, said the hospital could not release any details.

Ambrosia Healy, the band's publicist, said the band's show Tuesday night in Los Angeles was not canceled. Saxophonist Jeff Coffin, who played with Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, had been sitting in for Moore during the band's summer tour. Moore had classical training but said jazz was his main musical influence, according to a biography on the band's Web site.

"But at this stage I don't really consider myself a jazz musician," Moore said in the biography. Playing with the Dave Matthews Band was "almost better than a jazz gig," he said. "I have plenty of space to improvise, to try new ideas."

Lead singer Dave Matthews credited Moore with arranging many of his songs.

The band formed in the early 1990s in Charlottesville and broke out of the local music scene with the album "Under the Table and Dreaming." The band won a Grammy Award in 1997 for its hit song "So Much to Say" off its second album "Crash."

CHINA'S

From Page 18

"You could not criticize them either. They all belong to some organizations ... they have all kind of institutions, unions. We do not have that. We can work very hard, can withstand lots of bitterness. We can achieve in one week what they can achieve in one month."

In the Olympic ceremony segment showcasing the Chinese invention of movable type, the nearly 900 performers who crouched under 40-pound boxes donned adult diapers to allow them to stay inside for at least six hours, Beijing organizers said.

Some students of the Shaolin Tagou Traditional Chinese Martial Arts School in Henan province who began training for the event last May were injured in falls on the LED screen that forms the floor on which they performed and was made slippery by rain, said Liu Haike, one of the school's lead instructors.

"At one point, the children had to run in four different directions. ... When one fell, others quickly followed," Liu said, adding the injuries were minor. While in Beijing, the constant exposure to the dizzyingly hot summer resulted in heatstroke for some students, particularly during one rain-drenched rehearsal that stretched on for two days and two nights.

The students were kept on their feet for most of the 51-hour rehearsal with little food and rest and no shelter from the night's downpour, as the show's directors attempted to coordinate the 2,008-member performance with multimedia effects, students and their head coach told the AP.

"We had only two meals for the entire time. There was almost no time to sleep, even less time for toilet breaks," Cheng said. "But we didn't feel so angry because the director was also there with us the whole time."

Despite the sacrifices, the student performers were grateful for the opportunity to participate in the historic event and view it as an honor.

"All the tears, the sweat, and sometimes even blood that we shed, I now think it was quite worth it," said Ren Yang, 17, also of the Tagou school. "When we performed that night, all that I could feel in my heart was joy. Pure joy."

PROPAGANDA

From Page 18

pany, said when asked to compare the show to Beijing's opening ceremonies.

North Korean tourism officials said fewer visitors than expected came so far this month, without giving figures. Kim Song of the Korean International Travel Company speculated tighter Chinese visa regulations because of security concerns during the Olympics were preventing tourists from coming to Pyongyang. Almost all visitors to the country come through China.

The Olympics opening ceremony was "very familiar" to viewers of the North's show, said Simon Cockerell of Beijing-based Koryo Tours, which plans to bring 800 visitors to Pyongyang this year to watch the "mass games."

While the North's presentation is more rudimentary—and lacks the massive fireworks display seen in Beijing—Cockerell noted the high price tag for the Olympics opening that some media reports have put at $300 million.

"In terms of results-to-resources ratio, it's no contest bang for buck," he said in Pyongyang. "If you gave the Arirang organizers $300 million to put on one show, I'd imagine something vastly more impressive than the Beijing opening ceremonies."

Moore's memoir: Being Bond was sometimes scary

In this Oct. 29, 2007 file photo, British actor Roger Moore smiles during an interview in Budapest, Hungary.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—It's not easy being Bond. Roger Moore, who starred in seven Bond films in the 1970s and 1980s, recounts his days as the dashing superspy in his upcoming memoir, "My Word Is My Bond," and says things weren't always as they seemed.

"Jimmy Bond had a big jet boat chase in 'Live and Let Die,'" writes Moore, now 80. "I did quite a few run-throughs to practice and whilst banking on one such run, the engine cut out. I had no steering! I therefore continued in a straight line ... directly into a wooden boat house."

He instantly catapulted from the boat into a wall, cracking his front teeth and twisting his knee.

"There I was, as a fearless 007, hobbling on a cane to my boat and then pretending to be indestructible for the cameras. Who says I can't act?"

Moore replaced Sean Connery in the 007 franchise in 1973. His films include "The Spy Who Loved Me," "Live and Let Die," "The Man With the Golden Gun" and "A View to a Kill."

The book, due out Nov. 4, also recounts the time Moore bumped into a young Steven Spielberg at a Paris hotel.

"He was a huge Bond fan and said that he would love to direct one of the films," Moore says. "He'd recently had great success with 'Jaws' and 'Close Encounters' and was considered a very hot property. I was rather excited at this news and went looking for (film producer Albert R. 'Cubby' Broccoli) to tell him."

But Broccoli, who steered the Bond franchise over three decades, shook his head and asked, "Do you know how much of a percentage he'd want?"

"It's always been policy that no Bond director ever got a slice of the box office profits," Moore says. "So, Spielberg went off and made 'Indiana Jones' who I reckon to be a period James Bond!"

Clooney, Pitt, Coens join Toronto festival lineup

TORONTO (AP)—Movies featuring Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Kate Beckinsale, Edward Norton and Colin Farrell and a documentary about Paris Hilton have joined the lineup for the Toronto International Film Festival. North America's largest cinema showcase announced Tuesday that the schedule will include Joel and Ethan Coen's CIA comedy "Burn After Reading," with Pitt, Clooney, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton and John Malkovich.

Among other additions were Gavin O'Connor's cop drama "Pride and Glory," starring Norton and Farrell; Rod Lurie's Washington journalism tale "Nothing But the Truth," with Beckinsale, David Schwimmer and Angela Bassett; and Adria Petty's nonfiction Hilton chronicle "Paris, Not France."

Also, Neil Burger's Iraq War homecoming saga "The Lucky Ones," with Tim Robbins, Rachel McAdams and Michael Pena; Toa Fraser's British historical tale "Dean Spanley," starring Peter O'Toole, Sam Neill and Jeremy Northam; and Jodie Markell's "The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond," based on a Tennessee Williams screenplay and featuring Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Evans, Ellen Burstyn and Ann-Margret.

Pitt

The festival also will feature "New York, I Love You," a collection of 12 short films about New York City directed by such talents as Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman, Brett Ratner and Mira Nair.

Previously announced movies among Toronto's slate of 249 feature films include Spike Lee's World War II tale "Miracle at St. Anna," featuring Derek Luke; Saul Dibb's historical pageant "The Duchess," starring Keira Knightley; David Koepp's supernatural romance "Ghost Town," with Ricky Gervais, Tea Leoni and Greg Kinnear; Gina Prince-Bythewood's Southern drama "The Secret Life of Bees," with Dakota Fanning, Queen Latifah, Jennifer Hudson, Alicia Keys and Sophie Okonedo; the Western "Appaloosa," in which director Ed Harris stars with Viggo Mortensen and Renee Zellweger; and Kevin Smith's comedy "Zack and Miri Make a Porno," starring Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks.

Opening the festival Sept. 4 will be the World War I drama "Passchendaele," directed by and starring Canadian actor-filmmaker Paul Gross. The festival closes Sept. 13 with Charles Martin Smith's "Stone of Destiny," a Scottish drama with Robert Carlyle, Brenda Fricker and Billy Boyd.

Joe Francis sues to rescind settlement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Girls Gone Wild" entrepreneur Joe Francis wants a California court to rescind a settlement he claims a federal judge coerced him into signing.

Francis, who created the popular video series that features young women baring their breasts, filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the parents of three underage girls, aiming to vacate an agreement reached in Panama City, Fla., and get his payout returned. The girls were filmed there, and their parents subsequently sued Francis.

Francis

He agreed to settle the civil case after U.S. District Judge Richard Smoak jailed him in 2007 for contempt of court.

In Francis' suit, he accuses Smoak of siding with former law partners to jail Francis and force him to settle on terms favorable to the girls. An attorney from a law firm where Smoak was once a partner represented the girls and their parents

Smoak declined to comment on Francis' allegations. The judge ordered Francis jailed in 2007 after finding him in contempt of court. Attorneys for the girls said Francis yelled obscenities at them during a mediation meeting and refused to settle the case.

Francis now claims he was bulldozed into signing the settlement -by being jailed—and that it should be revoked.

The 35-year-old multimillionaire's lawsuit states he understood that he "had no choice but to enter into the settlement in order to avoid further incarceration."

Francis declined to say how much he paid, but described it as "a fortune." He had previously told The Associated Press that the girls were asking for $70 million.

Robert Barnes, one of Francis' lawyers, said the lawsuit was filed in Los Angeles because that's where Francis and his company, Mantra Films Inc., are based.

Francis said his actions are intended to protect average citizens.

"This fight is way bigger than me," Francis said in an interview after a press conference announcing the lawsuit. "If this stands, this single-handedly undermines the entire civil judicial process in this country."

Francis, who earns an estimated $29 million a year from the "Girls Gone Wild" series, asked supporters on his Web site to write letters to Congress and seek Smoak's impeachment.

His defiant tone Tuesday was different from April 2007, when he pleaded guilty to the federal contempt charge, weeping openly in a Panama City courtroom and apologizing for yelling during settlement negotiations.

Francis has been a legal lightning rod. Earlier this year, he pleaded no contest to criminal charges in Panama City to a handful of felony and misdemeanor charges stemming from his 2003 arrest on suspicion of filming underage girls. Francis declared his innocence immediately afterward, saying he entered the plea to get out of jail.

He still faces federal tax evasion charges in Los Angeles and has been sued in Las Vegas for $2 million in gambling debts that Francis claims he has already settled through "prior agreements."

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Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:15	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:15	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Christopher Lee, Anthony Daniels
Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis
As the Clone Wars sweep through the galaxy, the heroic Jedi Knights struggle to maintain order and restore peace. More and more systems are falling prey to the forces of the dark side as the Galactic Republic slips further and further under the sway of the Separatists and their never-ending droid army. Anakin Skywalker and his Padawan learner Ahsoka Tano find themselves on a mission with far-reaching consequences, one that brings them face-to-face with crime lord Jabba the Hutt.

Mirrors

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton
Thriller, Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
A man is head of security at a department store plagued by unexplained deaths. The store is also the target of demonstrators wanting compensation for an earlier staff fire tragedy. The man becomes intrigued by a disturbed woman. She claims her sister, who died in the fire, is exacting revenge, using mirrors as a gateway back into the living world.

Tropic Thunder

Friday		4:20	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:20	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:20	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
A group of self-absorbed actors set out to make the biggest war film ever. After ballooning costs (and the out of control egos of the pampered cast) threaten to shut down the movie, the frustrated director refuses to stop shooting, leading his cast deep into the jungles of Southeast Asia for "increased realism," where they inadvertently encounter real bad guys.

★ ★ ★

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Friday		4:15	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:15	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:15	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:05	

Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Pineapple Express

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

James Franco, Seth Rogen
Action, Comedy, Thriller • Rated R

Dark Knight

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mamma Mia

Friday		4:10	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:20	

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated PG 13

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Bronze Fonz now an 'Ayyyy'-list celeb in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE (AP)—His hair will always be in place, he doesn't mind if you touch the leather and he's far too heavy to jump the shark Thought Arthur Fonzarelli couldn't get any cooler? Meet the bronze Fonz.

Dozens of people lined the Milwaukee River on Tuesday to cheer the unveiling of a statue of the "Happy Days" character, including Henry Winkler himself. The man who was cast as the Fonz—then cast in bronze—pretended to comb the statue's hair and put his arm around the smiling, life-size likeness, which is giving two thumbs up.

"To see it in real life and that it exists it's just, it's just unbelievable. It really is," Winkler told the invite-only crowd and others gathered nearby trying to hear.

Milwaukee joins at least six other cities around the nation that have erected statues of classic television or movie characters.

Though no scenes were filmed here, "Happy Days" took place in Milwaukee during its TV run from 1974 to 1984. Most of the cast was on hand Tuesday, along with the show's creator, director and producer Garry Marshall, and actors Penny Marshall and Cindy Williams from the spin-off "Laverne & Shirley."

Ron Howard, who played Richie Cunningham, was filming a movie and wasn't able to make it. Winkler's two sons, daughter and wife were also in the audience.

Garry Marshall was playful at the podium, making the crowd laugh.

"Hi, I'm Penny's brother," he said, referring to his well-known sister, actress-director Penny Marshall. The show's executive producer, Thomas L. Miller, talked him out of basing the show in the Bronx, where the Marshalls grew up, Marshall said. Miller was born in Milwaukee.

"To think back and I made up a character, you know, and just made it up but suddenly a man came named Henry Winkler, and he made this character real."

He then gave Winkler a hug.

The sculptor, Gerald Sawyer, put the initials of Winkler and his wife in the veins in the hands, "like the David in Italy," Winkler said.

Two booster groups, VISIT Milwaukee and Spirit Milwaukee, helped raise funds for the statue. The cable network TV Land also contributed.

Applegate calls double mastectomy a 'tough' choice

NEW YORK (AP)—Christina Applegate is taking the long view of her battle with breast cancer—the really long view. Speaking on ABC News' "Good Morning America" in her first interview since announcing her diagnosis earlier this month, the "Samantha Who?" star said she had a double mastectomy three weeks ago. She'll undergo reconstructive surgery over the next eight months.

"I'm going to have cute boobs 'til I'm 90, so there's that," she joked in the interview, which aired Tuesday. "I'll have the best boobs in the nursing home. I'll be the envy of all the ladies around the bridge table." The 36-year-old actress elected to remove both breasts even though the disease was contained in one breast. She said she is now cancer-free.

Applegate called the operation a logical decision. Her mother battled breast cancer, and she tested positive for the BRCA1 gene mutation linked to breast and ovarian cancer.

"I just wanted to kind of be rid of it," she said. "So this was the choice I made and it was a tough one."

Applegate

The experience has been an emotional roller coaster, she said.

"Sometimes, you know, I cry and sometimes I scream and I get really angry and I get really like, you know, into wallowing in self-pity sometimes," she said. "And I think that's—it's all part of healing, and anyone who's going through it out there, it's OK to cry. It's OK to fall on the ground and just scream if you want to."

The Emmy-nominated "Samantha Who?" star has kept her sense of humor intact.

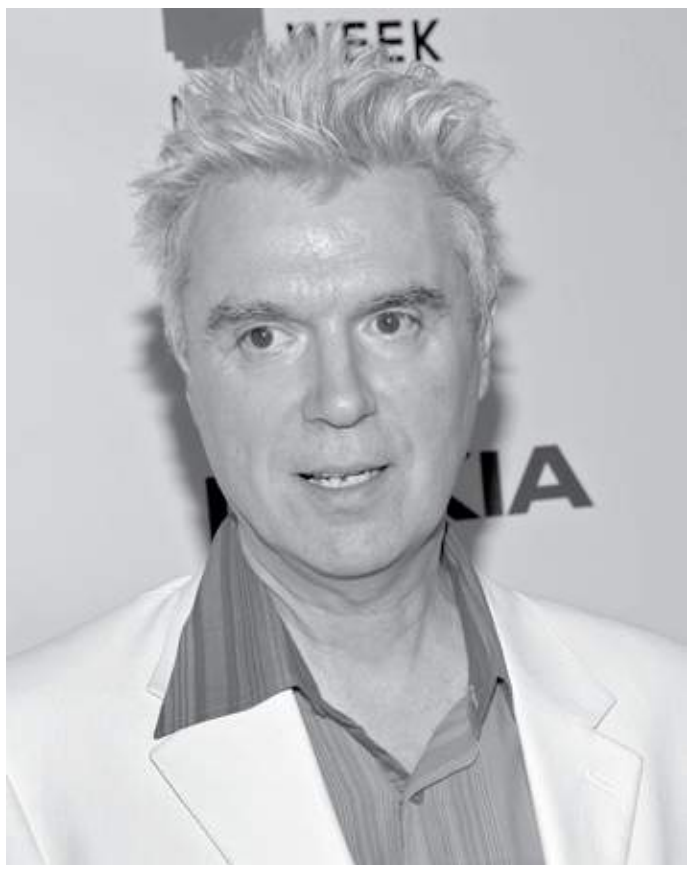
"I've laughed so much in the last three weeks," she said. "I love living, and I really love my life, and I knew that from this moment on it was only going to be good that was going to be coming. Yeah, I'll face challenges, but you can't get any darker than where I've been. So knowing that in my soul gave me the strength to just say, 'I have to get out there and make this a positive.'"

Applegate's cancer was detected early through a doctor-ordered MRI. She said she's starting a program to help women at high risk for breast cancer to meet the costs of an MRI, which is not always covered by insurance.

Applegate is scheduled to appear on a one-hour TV special, "Stand Up to Cancer," to be aired on ABC, CBS and NBC on Sept. 5 to raise funds for cancer research.

She has been nominated for an Emmy and a Golden Globe for the ABC show "Samantha Who?", in which she plays a woman who wakes from a coma with no memory of who she is.

NY hosts 9 bicycle racks designed by David Byrne



NEW YORK (AP)—Musician, artist and bicycling enthusiast David Byrne has designed nine unusual bike racks that have been installed around New York City.

The Department of Transportation says the artistic installations by the Talking Heads singer are meant to spark interest in bicycling.

Each rack reflects its location. A guitar-shaped rack named Hipster has been placed in Brooklyn's trendy Williamsburg neighborhood. A rack that looks like a dollar sign is in the Wall Street area.

Byrne was one of the founders of the music group Talking Heads in the 1970s. He's been publishing and exhibiting his artworks over the last decade.

In this June 10, 2008 file photo, musician David Byrne arrives for the 12th annual Webby Awards ceremony in New York

AP

Toby Keith praises Obama

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Barack Obama is getting praise from Nashville, courtesy of one big, patriotic country star.

Toby Keith, perhaps best known to non-country audiences for his post-Sept. 11 song "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue," says he's a Democrat, and was impressed by the senator from Illinois. Keith has said in the past that the 2002 song—which included lines aimed at the Taliban like "we lit up your world like the Fourth of July"—was more patriotic than pro-war.

Asked while promoting his new movie "Beer For My Horses" about the role of patriotism in the current presidential election, Keith replied: "There's a big part of America that really believes that there is a war on terrorism, and that we need to finish up.

"So I thought it was beautiful the other day when Obama went to Afghanistan and got educated about Afghanistan and Iraq. He came back and said some really nice things.

"So as far as leadership and patriotism goes, I think it's really important that those things have to take place. And I think he's the best Democratic candidate we've had since Bill Clinton. And that's coming from a Democrat."

AP

This is a Monday, April 14, 2008 file photo of Toby Keith as he arrives at the CMT Music Awards, in Nashville, Tenn.

Know-it-all husband needs a word to the wise from wife

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My sister, "Frannie," and I are both professionals, married to men who are complete opposites. My husband, "Grady," is a blue-collar guy who never attended college. He has many wonderful qualities, but lacks self-esteem. He has a good, stable job and is more "street smart" than "book smart."

Frannie's husband, "Austin," has a graduate degree and a professional career. He is also a "know-it-all" who loves to flaunt his knowledge to everyone, especially to Grady. This makes my husband feel insecure and makes it difficult for us to be around Austin and Frannie.

I have told my sister how we feel. She says I need to talk to Austin about it. If I do, it will cause a huge argument. I just wish Austin could be a little less boastful and a bit more humble. Any suggestions on how to deal with this?

FRANNIE'S KID SIS

DEAR KID SIS: Before I offer any, has it occurred to you that Austin may be even more insecure than your husband, and your sister is a wimp? It is not your "job" to teach her husband social behavior—that's what a loving wife does when her husband does something obnoxious. And Austin's behavior falls into that category.

Perhaps, if you point this out to Grady, it will help him feel less insecure around his windbag of a brother-in-law. Educated people who feel good about themselves do not have to show others how smart they are. In fact, they are so adept at sharing their knowledge that they can converse with anyone on any level without the person feeling talked down to.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: What do you think of marriages where the husband and wife merely tolerate each other and have little emotional connection? In our situation, my wife seems to accept that our marriage "just is," but I feel that marriage should offer more.

I would press for a divorce except for the fear of making matters worse. In this case, no children are involved. It's doubtful that counseling would change a thing. Do we just stick it out after 25 years of marriage?

LOVELESS IN GEORGIA

DEAR LOVELESS: Marriages in which the spouses "merely tolerate each other with little emotional connection" are called marriages of convenience. I'm sad to say they are not uncommon. Some couples who have drifted apart have been able to reconnect through a program called Retrouvaille, which began in 1977 in Canada. Although it is Catholic in origin and orientation, it is open to all married couples regardless of their religion.

I have mentioned Retrouvaille in my column before. It consists of a weekend, plus a series of 12 presentations that take place over the following three months. The program is run by three married couples and a priest. The "team couples," all of whom have experienced disillusionment, pain and anger in their own marriages, share their personal struggles, reconciliation and healing.

Before you decide whether to continue living in an emotional desert or chuck the marriage entirely, ask your wife to attend a Retrouvaille weekend with you. It might be the spark you need to get your relationship going again, and it has worked for many other couples. For information on programs in your area, call toll-free 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as ~~Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.~~ Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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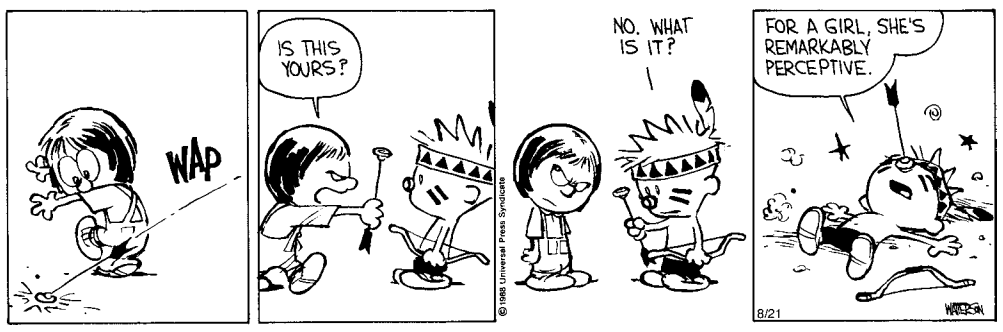
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



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5 Cuckoo
9 Barbie's companion
12 Morays, e.g.
13 Lotion additive
14 Anger
15 Piano style
17 Conk out
18 Reinforced
19 Urged (on)
21 The guy
22 Yuletide melody
24 Trademark symbol
27 Actor McBride
28 Leak slowly
31 Blackbird
32 Lubricate
33 By way of
34 Seeks alms
36 Literary monogram
37 Sobbed
38 Joined, as oxen
40 "Greetings!"
41 Agent 86's shoe, e.g.
43 Elton John's "— and the Jets"
47 Addressee
48 Ore-Ida product
51 Skedaddle
52 Burn somewhat
53 Ancient Persian Gulf country
54 Work unit
55 Suspend
56 Characterization

DOWN
1 "Dragnet" star
2 Caboose's position
3 Actress Jessica
4 Hitchcock classic
5 Shakespeare, for one
6 Carte lead-in
7 Heavy weight
8 Passover meal
9 Using extreme care
10 Pennsylvania port
11 Gotta have
16 Whiz preceder
20 Stickum
22 TV's "French Chef"
23 Has a bug
24 Retriever type
25 Indivisible
26 "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" actor
27 Heart
29 Speed along
30 Chow down
35 Bart, to Homer
37 — Springs, Fla.
39 Vessel
40 That girl
41 Combustible heap
42 Session with a shrink
43 Titanic downfall
44 — contendere
45 Slanted type (Abbr.)
46 Girl in a Salinger story
49 "Eureka!"
50 Beige

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	L	I	M	■	B	I	B	■	O	M	S	K
A	I	D	E	■	O	A	R	■	F	A	U	N
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P	R	O	P	■	R	E	D	■	D	E	V	O
A	C	C	R	A	■	B	I	D	■	Y	E	W
■	■	K	A	L	E	■	S	E	C	■	■	■
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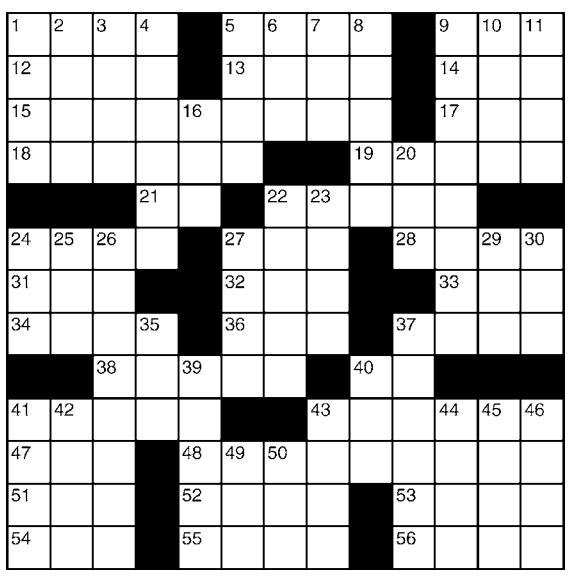
Yesterday's answer 8-21



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alicia Witt, 33; Carrie-Anne Moss, 41; Kim Cattrall, 52; Kenny Rogers, 70

Happy Birthday: Travel and communications will enable you to create a demand for your skills. Foolish spending will set you back but a well-thought-out budget should help you keep your impulses in check. Emotional sensitivity toward others will help you drum up support. You will gain power by helping others. Creative solutions will be your forte. Your numbers are 10, 13, 18, 31, 33, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get done what you can but don't put too much pressure on yourself. Realize your potential and do not sell yourself short or give too much for what you will get in return. For once, let someone else pick up the slack. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Spit out what you have to say and get on with it. You'll be surprised at the reaction you get from others. You can be in control, all you have to do is step up and take on more. Consider a move if it's conducive to getting ahead. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): There is an opportunity to push for some extra cash through a debt owed or a settlement or investment. Love issues will arise if you don't pay enough attention to the one you are with. Personal deception is apparent. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Someone will trap you in a situation that may cause some embarrassment. Make sure you do what you promised. A few changes at home and you will have your place ready for whatever new venture you want to take on. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Give time and knowledge to a cause you believe in and be productive and innovative. Use your drive and powerful connections to make a difference. A change of location due to a transfer will happen quickly. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't leave anything to chance. Combine plans for both your personal and professional life to come up with a doable solution. Practical change will keep you ahead of the competition. A change of residence will do you good. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Getting involved in projects that will introduce you to a new group of friends can help you put the past behind you. Set yourself free. Accept the opportunities you've missed by not moving on. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Trust your judgment when it comes to business decisions. Take a power position if anyone tries to con you or take advantage of you. Recognize what you have developed and continue on by yourself if possible. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can manipulate a situation to help you accomplish what you are trying to do. Don't expect everyone to come on board and help you out. Someone you least expect will try to dismantle your plans. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Any unfinished business can be tied up if you state your case so everyone can understand the benefits you can bring to the table. A change in your status will result if an unhappy partner wants a better deal. Don't give in to an ultimatum. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be careful not to give up too much for the wrong reason. Figure out what it's going to cost you financially, emotionally or physically. Do not give in to pressure, ultimatums or blackmail. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Attend a function geared toward helping a cause. Love is on the rise and a chance to partner with someone personally or professionally is looking positive. Go back in time and you will remember something that will help you make the right decision now. ✪✪✪✪

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	3	2	8				
								2
			6					4
				5		4		6
2								3
5		9		7				
3					4			
1								
				6	5	1	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	9	4	3	1	5	2	8
2	8	4	7	6	5	3	1	9
5	3	1	9	8	2	4	6	7
8	6	3	2	1	4	9	7	5
9	5	2	3	7	6	1	8	4
1	4	7	8	5	9	6	3	2
7	9	8	1	4	3	2	5	6
4	1	5	6	2	7	8	9	3
3	2	6	5	9	8	7	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AMERICAN CASTLES **Solution: 8 letters**

T	S	N	A	G	R	O	M	A	L	G	E	M	H	G
U	T	O	W	E	R	D	R	A	V	R	A	H	O	R
O	R	A	S	D	U	O	L	C	I	H	S	T	M	A
K	E	E	I	D	E	O	S	U	R	T	O	O	E	Y
O	A	G	(L)	P	V	K	Q	U	O	E	D	T	E	T
O	M	(L)	E	E	T	S	A	N	P	G	L	L	E	D
L	(A)	A	L	L	T	L	E	L	N	M	X	T	E	L
(H)	L	A	N	A	L	G	I	I	A	O	A	T	U	O
Y	N	I	T	O	D	O	K	B	M	R	A	C	A	B
D	R	E	H	I	R	R	C	A	R	R	O	R	K	Y
E	B	E	R	T	A	T	G	Y	E	E	E	C	E	E
R	L	B	N	P	N	I	T	D	N	D	D	R	H	L
O	A	I	I	I	C	O	E	E	N	V	A	N	O	L
H	C	N	A	R	W	F	F	O	A	C	A	L	A	A
S	K	S	M	N	N	Y	W	G	B	R	O	O	K	V

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Bannerman, Black, Boldt, Bridge, Brook, Butler, Campus, Carey, Clouds, College, Coral, Federated, Fonthill, Gate, Glamorgan, Gray, Gwynn, Hall, Harvard, Home, Hotel, Kingdom, Lake, Lookout, Loveland, Magic, Main, Manor, Moxley, Oheka, Park, Piatt, Ranch, Saint, Shore, Squire, State, Stone, Stream, Tarrytown, Tower, Valley, Vanderbilt, Winery, Wonder

Yesterday's Answer: Artois

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Golden boy Michael Phelps eager for his own bed

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—Michael Phelps kept every swimsuit, every cap, every pair of goggles he wore during nine magical days at the Water Cube. Every memory will be savored, too, from goofing off with his U.S. teammates to bowing his head not one, not two, but eight times to receive a gold medal at the Beijing Games.

"There are moments I'll never forget," he said.

Neither will the whole world.

Phelps took down the grandest of Olympic records Sunday in the final event at the pool, helping the Americans rally for a world-record win in the 400-meter medley relay. That victory, one more than Mark Spitz managed at the 1972 Munich Games, assured him a place in sports history and a legacy of, well, does he even need one?

Wait, there's more. In his pursuit of Spitz, which actually began four years ago with six gold medals in Athens, Phelps became the winningest Olympian ever with 14 victories, five more than any other athlete.

Even though the Americans have never lost the medley relay at the Olympics, the latest gold was hardly a breeze. When Phelps dived into the water for the butterfly—the third of four legs—the Americans were third behind Japan and Australia.

But Phelps, swimming the same distance and stroke that he used to win his seventh gold a day earlier, powered back to the front on his return lap, passing off to Jason Lezak with the Americans in front. Australia's Eamon Sullivan tried to chase down Lezak and appeared to be gaining as they came to the wall. But Lezak touched in 3 minutes, 29.34 seconds—the seventh world record of Phelps' remarkable run.

Afterward, Phelps gathered his three mates in a group huddle, then hugged each one of them separately. He thanked them for their role in the last of his three relay wins. They congratulated him for his remarkable feat.

"It was cool," backstroker Aaron Peirsol said. "We got to be a part of it."

Another member of the relay team, breaststroker Brendan Hansen, was most impressed by the way Phelps detached himself from all the hype once he got away from the pool. He'd set a world record in the morning, then go back to the village and act like nothing had happened.

"I'd be like, 'Do you realize what you're doing?'" Hansen said. "And he'd be like, 'Man, the pizza is good today.'"

But deep down, Phelps was soaking it all in—the glory and the minutiae. He had all the medals hanging in his room. By the end of the games, Hansen quipped, they resembled a wind chime.

As much as he relished the actual races, what he really seemed to treasure most were those behind-the-scenes moments. Unlike Spitz, who was viewed as aloof and even arrogant by his fellow swimmers, Phelps got along with all his teammates, even though they all knew he was in a league of his own.

He hung out with them during his down time in the athletes' village, playing cards and the world-conquering game Risk. He made a point to engage the Olympic rookies he didn't know very well. He did what lots of other 23-year-olds did—play hip-hop music and text his buddies.

"I just wanted to make sure I took every single moment in and every single swim in, every single moment with my teammates, so I would remember them," Phelps said. "I don't want to forget anything that happened."

AP

Michael Phelps of the United States goes to hug his mother Debbie, left, as his sister, Hilary Phelps, looks on, after the medal ceremony for men's 4x100-meter medley relay final during the swimming competitions in the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008.

No one else does, either.

Everyone at the pool was mesmerized by Phelps, even if they were competing for another country.

"I couldn't care less about my swims," said Australia's Leisel Jones, who won two gold medals. "To swim in the same era as him has been awesome."

Spitz's record had stood since the Nixon administration. Australian coach Alan Thompson figures it might take even longer for someone to take down the new mark.

"We've been talking about Mark Spitz for 36 years now," Thompson said. "I don't know if I'm going to be alive when they stop talking about this bloke. You wonder if we are going to see someone as good as this again."

After Spitz's performance in 1972, there surely were folks who believed an unattainable record had just been set, that no one would ever collect so many gold medals at a single Olympics. But that merely set a new target for everyone.

Phelps was the one who finally hit the bull's-eye.

"Being able to have something like that to shoot for, it made those days when I was tired and I didn't want to be there ... it made those days easier to look at (Spitz) and say, `I want to do this,'" Phelps said. "I'm just thankful for him having done what he did."

Somewhere, there's probably a child who will head to the pool a little early to get started on his dream of winning nine gold medals.

Phelps surely hopes so. Every chance he gets, he talks of wanting to raise the sport's profile in the U.S., where it barely gets noticed in non-Olympic years outside of neighborhood swim meets. He was the star attraction in Beijing, drawing huge television ratings back home—where the morning finals could be shown live in the evening.

President Bush watched Phelps win two races. Basketball stars Kobe Bryant and LeBron James were there Sunday, rooting him on to his eighth gold.

"The sport of swimming has come a long way so far, and I think it can go even further," he said. "I can take it even further."

The kid who was scared to put his face in the water has grown into the face of his sport. There surely will be plenty of promotional appearances in the days and weeks to come, as Phelps tries to capitalize on his accomplishments while they're still fresh in the public's mind. He hopes to bring everyone along for the ride.

"Mike is opening a lot of doors with what he's doing," Peirsol said. "Hopefully the sport can build on this momentum."

Not that anyone will see Phelps in a LZR Racer anytime soon. He'll take a nice, long break from swimming. The early morning wake-up calls, the grueling weight sessions, the endless laps in the pool—all are on hold for now.

Besides, he has to pack. Phelps will be moving back to Baltimore after spending the last four years in Michigan, where he grew into a man and learned to be on his own for the first time.

Home sounds pretty good to the 23-year-old Phelps, who has a strong relationship with his mother, Debbie, and two older sisters. Phelps' parents split when he was only 7, and the relationship with his father has long been strained, but the women in his life cheered him every step of the way in Beijing.

After the eighth gold, Phelps climbed into stands to give all three of them a kiss. Debbie gave her boy a little extra hug, tears streaming down her face.

"I just want to lay in my own bed for five minutes at least and just relax," Phelps said. "One of the things I'm really looking forward to is getting back to Baltimore."

Not that he's breaking up his hugely successful partnership with coach Bob Bowman. They've been together since Phelps was an overactive 11-year-old, bouncing off the walls when he wasn't beating everyone in the pool. They headed off to Michigan together when Bowman took a job there. Now, the coach is returning to the North Baltimore Aquatic Club, where their relationship was forged.

Phelps plans to return to the pool in plenty of time to get ready for next year's world championships in Rome, where he'll start to tinker with the program that worked so well in Athens and was even better in Beijing. He plans to dump the 400 individual medley, the most grueling race on his schedule, and would like to take on some shorter events.

The 100 freestyle is the most likely addition.

"He thinks it'll be a little easier," Bowman said. "He's more naturally suited for longer distances. It'll be change for him, but I think it'll be a good one."

Four years from now, Phelps has every intention of returning for the London Games, where he'll be able to add to his already remarkable record.

"Bob has a saying, 'Putting money in the bank,' " Phelps said. "When we train every day, sometimes there are workouts you don't like, don't want to do. Bob says you're putting money in the bank.

"I guess I put a lot of money in the bank over the last four years, and we withdrew pretty much every penny in the bank. After Bob and I both grab a little break, it'll be time to start depositing."

Chad Johnson hurt in Lions' 27-10 win over Bengals

CINCINNATI (AP)—Pro Bowl receiver Chad Johnson strained his left shoulder Sunday night during the Detroit Lions' 27-10 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals, who now have their top two receivers and their starting tailback limited by injuries.

Johnson landed awkwardly on his left side after cornerback Brian Kelly intercepted a pass thrown his way on Cincinnati's first series. Johnson rolled on the field in pain for several seconds, then went to the locker room for an examination. He did not return.

Coach Marvin Lewis said the shoulder popped out and back into place on the field. Medical tests found no fracture.

"I think he should be ready by the opener," Lewis said. "Some of these things come back right away, and they're ready to go."

The Bengals already were missing Pro Bowl receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh and running back Rudi Johnson. Both of them have missed the first two preseason games with hamstring injuries.

Detroit got the better of it in the first quarter, when both teams played their starters.

Jon Kitna had a perfect passer rating of 158.3 for the second straight game. Playing in the stadium where he started the Bengals' resurgence in 2003, Kitna was much better than Carson Palmer, the No. 1 draft pick who took his place in Cincinnati.

Right away, Kitna tested a redesigned Bengals defense that has the cornerbacks aggressively covering receivers. He threw a 40-yard pass to Calvin Johnson on the opening play, letting the receiver beat cornerback Leon Hall on a sideline route.

That drive came up short in part because of an offensive pass interference penalty on Roy Williams. The next time the Lions got the ball, Kitna threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Johnson, who ran past cornerback Johnathan Joseph for an easy score.

Kitna completed his three passes for 76 yards and a touchdown, leaving him 9-of-10 for 146 yards with a pair of touchdowns in the preseason.

In an ominous sign for the Bengals, Palmer was repeatedly hit as he threw and got sacked once. He was only 6-of-13 for 50 yards with the one costly interception. He led Chad Johnson a bit too much, giving Kelly a chance to knock the ball free and grab it in the air.

Palmer played until the middle of the second quarter, trying to get the offense moving. In his two preseason games, Palmer is 11-of-22 for 83 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

Both teams failed on field goal attempts. Cincinnati's Shayne Graham had a 46-yard try blocked by Dewayne White, but later made one from 50 yards away. Detroit's Dave Rayner was wide left on a 47-yard attempt, then later connected from 48 and 23 yards. Rayner replaced Jason Hanson, who strained his thigh in the preseason opener.

Third-string quarterback Drew Stanton threw a 50-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Middleton and also ran 10 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Bengals defensive tackle Pat Sims, a third-round pick, was taken off the field on a cart after hurting his right foot in the fourth quarter.

Peyton hopes to start Colts season opener

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Peyton Manning proved Tuesday he can stand, walk and talk. Next question: Will the two-time league MVP start in the Colts' season opener?

Manning made it to his first practice of the season Tuesday, then ended his self-imposed silence by saying he wanted to play in Indianapolis' first regular-season game Sept. 7 against Chicago—although he couldn't provide a guarantee.

"I've not really had a whole lot to say to tell you the truth," he said. "As to when I'll be back on the practice field, that's still to be determined. Obviously, the sooner, the better for me. My goal is to be back for the first game."

Indy's franchise quarterback had been kept out of public view since having surgery to remove an infected bursa sac from his left knee July 14. Team officials said he was staying away to reduce the risk of another infection.

Things began changing Monday night when the former Super Bowl MVP arrived at the PeyBack Foundation's charity bowling event, which was closed to the media.

Over the past couple of weeks, local radio talk shows have been filled with questions about whether Manning's knee was worse than originally diagnosed and whether he might miss the season opener—or additional games—and a local television station showed an apparent photo of Manning at the bowling tournament Monday with a brace over his right knee.

By Tuesday morning, Manning was back at practice in his familiar No. 18 jersey, minus a helmet or pads, and wearing a wrap around his left knee. He threw a few passes but spent most of the time chatting with team owner Jim Irsay and coach Tony Dungy at the new Lucas Oil Stadium.

Afterward, Manning took questions for the first time since a conference call July 24, the date his teammates reported to training camp, and he wasted no time in dismissing the growing speculation.

"This, maybe, will stop some of the whining going on," he said. "I just didn't want to get into these daily progress reports. I've done nothing but rehab, I guess we're sort of in the rumor mill now. I don't wear a knee brace, I wore this (wrap) today, really for the first time.

"If we're to the point of someone putting a cell phone picture on the news, that's a little disappointing. So I guess, I'll squash that right now, it's not true. I don't wear a knee brace."

Throughout Manning's absence, team officials have repeatedly said Manning's rehabilitation is on schedule. He was expected to miss four to six weeks, and Dungy believes Manning could be practicing by next week.

The time table remains uncertain, though, and Dungy could not assure fans that Manning would be ready to face the Bears.

"I don't think we can guarantee that," Dungy said. "I don't know if any of those (injured) guys will be out there on the 7th, but my guess is they will be."

Irsay doesn't want to take any chances with his prized player.

After drafting Manning with the No. 1 pick in 1998, Irsay has watched Manning start all 160 regular-season games and 14 straight playoff games, leading the Colts to eight playoff appearances and a Super Bowl title following the 2006 season.

If it means Manning would get healthier by taking the first week off and ending the NFL's second-longest streak for consecutive starts by a quarterback, Irsay implied Manning would sit out.

Getting Manning back wasn't the only pleasant sight for Dungy.

Bob Sanders, last year's defensive player of the year, and three-time Pro Bowl defensive end Dwight Freeney were in pads for the first time Tuesday.

Sanders had offseason shoulder surgery for the second straight year, and Freeney hadn't practiced since undergoing season-ending foot surgery in November. The return was a welcome respite for Indy's two defensive leaders, who were limited to personal workouts during the team's training camp in Terre Haute, Ind.

"I should definitely be ready in three weeks," Freeney said. "I think I'm close (to 100 percent). I'm definitely good enough to compete and play."

Freeney said he hadn't missed this much time on a football field since high school.

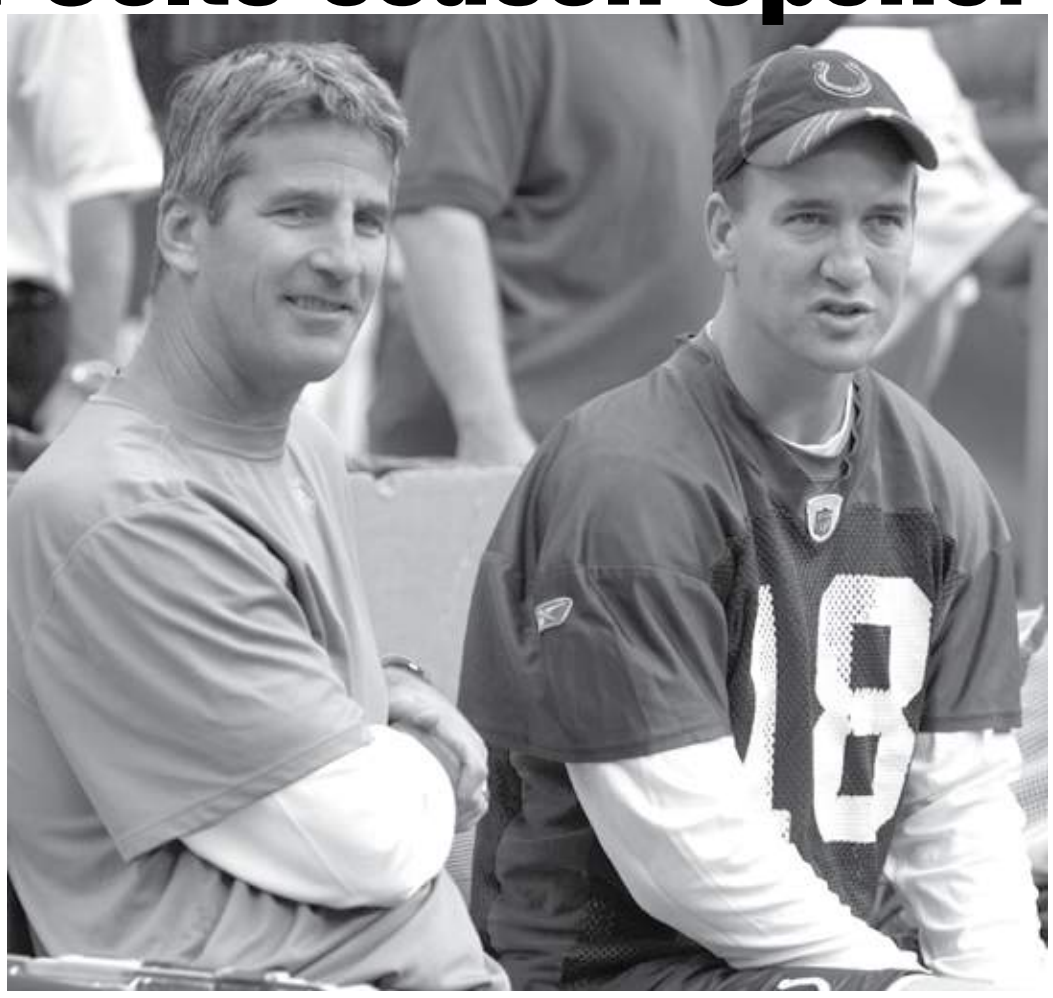
Sanders, however, has and shown little negative impact from sitting out.

He has missed most of training camp in three of his five NFL seasons, and last year was regularly held out of the Colts' midweek practices. Sanders responded by starting a career-high 15 games and becoming the first Colts' player to win the league's top defensive award.

"It's great to be running around with my teammates instead of standing around wishing you were out there," he said. "Rehabbing is something I'll have to continue to do throughout my career. What's important is to continue to use that time to make sure you're mentally sharp."

Just like Manning, however long it is until he starts throwing touchdown passes.

"This has been a new process for me, and it's not been the most enjoyable process," Manning said. "I can throw. I have been able to keep my arm in shape. I can certainly lift weights with my upper body, and my lower body, so I feel I've been able to stay with my strength level. As far as when, and how much time I need, we'll just have to kind of wait and see.



AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, right, talks with former Buffalo Bills quarterback Frank Reich as the football team practiced for the first time in the new Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008.

Nadal, Ivanovic draw top seeds for US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Rafael Nadal was seeded No. 1 for the U.S. Open on Tuesday, making it the first time since January 2004 that a man other than Roger Federer holds that top spot at a Grand Slam tournament.

Ana Ivanovic is the No. 1 seed on the women's side. The tournament begins Aug. 25, and the draw will be announced Thursday.

The U.S. Open followed Monday's rankings for its seedings, and Nadal replaced Federer at No. 1 for the first time this week. The Olympic, French Open and Wimbledon champion will try for his first U.S. Open title—he's never been beyond the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows and lost in the fourth round last year.

Federer, meanwhile, has won the last four U.S. Open championships. He had been seeded No. 1 at every major event since Andy Roddick at the 2004 Australian Open.

Novak Djokovic of Serbia was seeded third, followed by David Ferrer of Spain and Nikolay Davydenko of Russia. Roddick was seeded eighth and James Blake, who beat Federer at Beijing, was ninth.

Ivanovic won her first Grand Slam title this year at the French Open. Fellow Serbian star Jelena Jankovic is seeded second, followed by Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia, Serena Williams and Olympic champion Elena Dementieva of Russia.

Venus Williams is seventh and Lindsay Davenport is 23rd. The last two U.S. Open women's champions are out of the upcoming tournament—Justine Henin retired and Maria Sharapova is injured.

Falcons release veteran wide receiver Joe Horn

Joe Horn, released by the Atlanta Falcons on Tuesday after the team couldn't trade the veteran receiver, said he is relieved he can pursue a job with another team.

The Falcons will receive no return on the guaranteed $2.5 million salary in 2008 for the 36-year-old Horn.

Horn said he wished he could have produced better numbers for team owner Arthur Blank.

"It's a sense of sadness because after every game last year and after the first two preseason games I had to look at Mr. Blank and know that he deserves a winning team and he deserves a championship," Horn told The Associated Press. "I was here and couldn't make it happen. It's kind of sad for me leaving."

Horn was a disappointment in 2007, when he caught only 27 passes for 243 yards and one touchdown after signing a four-year, $14.5 million deal.

Horn sat out voluntary workouts, did not play in the team's first two preseason games because of a hamstring injury and asked to be traded.

"I'm 100 percent ready to run," Horn said Tuesday when asked about the injury.

Horn's agent, Ralph Vitolo, said Dallas, Jacksonville, Seattle and Tennessee could have a need for a veteran receiver.

"Now we're calling these teams and kind of narrowing the scope," Vitolo told The Associated Press. "Joe has been so productive. Somebody like Joe and a team with a need should be a perfect fit."

Vitolo called Horn's hamstring injury "just a nagging thing."

"It was just mentally wearing him down more than physically," he said.

Horn, drafted by Kansas City in 1996, spent seven years with the New Orleans Saints. His production declined his last two years with the Saints, but still the Falcons offered $7.5 million in guaranteed salary and bonus when looking for help at wide receiver in Bobby Petrino's pass-oriented offense last season.

"That's what locked him in with Atlanta," Vitolo said of the guaranteed money.

Petrino lasted only 13 games as coach before quitting with three games left in the 2007 season. The Falcons now are rebuilding with coach Mike Smith and a run-oriented attack.

"I'm disappointed that Joe didn't get an opportunity to compete because of his injury in training camp and his choice not to come to OTAs," Smith said after Tuesday's practice. "We really didn't get an opportunity for him to compete. We're going to move forward. We feel very comfortable about the receiving corps that we have. I wish Joe the best of luck as he moves on."

Horn had only five catches for 40 yards in the final three games last season.

"Everything imploded," Vitolo said of the 2007 season. "We couldn't change something we couldn't control. The Petrino thing imploded on us. It wasn't the Falcons' fault and it wasn't Joe's fault. It just all fell apart. He planned on retiring with Atlanta."

The Falcons also have cut ties with veterans Warrick Dunn, Rod Coleman, DeAngelo Hall and Alge Crumpler as they begin a rebuilding season.

"That's what happens in this league," Horn said. "You play awhile and youth comes along. It's their time. You don't rebuild a team with veteran players. I do think you can rebuild with a veteran player who can still play. I know I can still play."

Horn has 603 career receptions for 8,744 yards and 58 touchdowns. His last of four 1,000-yard seasons was 2004, when he had 94 catches and set career highs with 1,399 yards receiving and 11 touchdowns with the Saints.

The Falcons also placed linebacker Isaac Brown, an undrafted rookie free agent from Central Michigan, on the waived/injured list.

King of the Diamonds third qualifier next month

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The race for the third qualifying slots for the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament will be held on Sept. 13 and 14 at the Capitol Hill Field.

The qualifying tournament is a co-ed event with each team required to have players who are at least 18 years old. Each squad must also have two female players on the field at all times and is allowed to list a maximum of 15 players on its roster.

The third qualifier will have a double-elimination format and an entrance fee of $150.

Winner of the two-day tournament will join early qualifiers Shell Marianas and Natibu in the championship round set for October and will have a chance to represent the CNMI in a tournament in Palau.

Shell Marianas, which is composed of players from last year's champion No Ka Oi, took the first qualifying berth in May, topping the nine-team first round beating SaiPal in the finals. Total Chaos finished third.

With their second and third place finishes, SaiPal and Total Chaos gained entry to the wild card/consolation phase of the tournament on which the fourth and last qualifying seat will be at stake.

MARK RABAGO
Shell Marianas, the former No Ka Oi team, beat Natibu in the finals of the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament second qualifier held earlier this month. Photo above show players and supporters pose after the competition at the Capital Hill Field.

The wild card round is set for Oct. 4 and 5 and is for teams which place second and third in the first three qualifiers. If a squad had already qualified, the next two teams will take the two wild card berths.

The second qualifying tournament was held early this month with Shell Marianas prevailing anew, beating Natibu in the finals. But Natibu automatically claimed the second qualifying ticket, as Shell Marianas had already made it to the championship round.

SaiPal and Total Chaos were the third and fourth placers, respectively, in the second round. But since they are assured of slots in the wild card phase having placed second and third in the first qualifier, fifth placer Sufa and sixth-ranked On Da Rox will notch two of the remaining four seats for the wild card phase.

The last two wild card tickets will go to the second and third place teams in the third qualifier next month.

The wild card phase will have a single-elimination format with the winner joining Shell Marianas, Natibu, and the top placer of the third qualifier in the championship round scheduled for Oct. 11 and 12.

For more information, contact Joey Dela Cruz at 664-2503 or 287-6509.

G-ROLLERS

From Page 28

macho and Fredo Paez chipped in six apiece, while three other players made one basket each.

The G-Rollers II began piling up points in the second half with Mabini drilling several triples, but these were not enough to bring them back in the game and pull off an upset over the 2006 Rotary champions.

The G-Rollers I lost to the Junior Nationals in the semifinals last season, while the G-Rollers II failed to make it to the playoffs.

Aurelio led the G-Rollers I's winning debut this season, scoring 20 points while Matagolai had 17.

Mabini paced the G-Rollers II with 14 points, while Mike Manglona contributed 20.

Meanwhile, two more teams will play their first game of the season tonight, as Capital Hill collides with the Kagman Suns.

Last night, the G-Stars debuted against the San Antonio Sixers, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

G-Rollers I 87 – Aurelio 20, Matagolai 17, Ambrose 9, Babauta 8, E. Camacho 6, Concepcion 6, A. Camacho 5, Danas 4, Namero 2, Castro 2.

G-Rollers 2 42 – Mabini 14, M. Manglona 12, E. Manglona 8, Ventura 3, Brennan 3 Norita 2.

Scoring by halves: 35,-13, 87-42.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

MILLER

From Page 28

five matches in the elimination round.

Adalyn Hazelman of Fiji ruled the Senior Girls division, topping Leilani Duchnak in the finals, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Dina, Rafael, Miller, Mayuko Arriola, and coach Jeff Race are expected to arrive on Saipan this morning. Minor will stay in Fiji, as she will be going to New Caledonia for a tournament next week, while Ji Hoon Heo is set to compete in a tournament in Japan from Aug. 27 to 31.

The CNMI Junior Team left Saipan for Fiji first week of August. They first played in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships against the junior netters from the East and West teams.

SSC

From Page 28

Blasberg in an email to the *Saipan Tribune* said the first few months of their fall training will focus heavily on drills, starts and turns, and strength development.

Training sessions for the Senior and Junior teams will be six days a week, from Monday to Saturday. Practice on weekdays runs from 3:45pm to 6pm, while Saturday session is set from 7am to 9am.

The SSC Senior team will be led by Junior Pamaran, Lester Lapus, Michael Moran, Blair Nichols, Grace Kimball, and Sarah Johnson.

Members of the Blue, White, and Developmental teams are only training three times a week. Training sessions for Blue Team are set for every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4pm to 5:30pm, 4pm to 5pm for White every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and 5pm to 6pm for Developmental, also every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Adult beginners train only twice a day from 5pm to 6pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, while members of the Masters program have to be in Marpi on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5:45pm to 7pm, and on Saturdays from 7am to 9am.

Blasberg said the regular training sessions will help SSC swimmers prepare for monthly tournaments with Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and a meet in Guam in December.

"We have a competition in Guam that comes up in December. That's the first one on my radar. We also scheduled monthly meets with Tsunami and hopefully these will give the kids more opportunities to race and the coaches more opportunities to get times. I know we have another tournament in Guam in the spring and then the world championships in Rome next August," said Blasberg, who is having a good time in his coaching debut with SSC.

"So far we've gotten off to a great start. The kids have been great filling me in on how things are done. I've made some changes and the kids seem to respond well. One thing I was worried about was not pushing them hard enough, but lately they've been assuring me that's not the case," he said.

"We have an amazingly positive team, everyone has demonstrated acceptance toward me and shown a very strong work ethic, I'm very excited to see the kind of results they can produce this season," Blasberg added.

STAGE

From Page 28

terpreter. "It is a competition after all and the best athlete wins. I actually worked as hard as anybody else."

Ilchenko's strategy has helped her dominate open water swimming since 2004, winning five consecutive 5k world championships and three consecutive 10k races.

Natalie du Toit of South Africa, an amputee who removed her carbon-fiber prosthetic left leg before diving in, finished 16th—1:22.2 behind Ilchenko's winning time.

In another gold achieved on the water—at the sailing venue in Qingdao—Yin Jian won China's first-ever sailing gold medal in women's RS:X, a windsurfing class.

Crystl Bustos hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning as the U.S. Olympic softball team, forced into extra innings, beat Japan 4-1 and will play for their fourth straight gold medal.

Blanked for eight innings by Yukiko Ueno, the Americans (8-0) pushed across four in the ninth to extend their Olympic winning streak to 22 and move into the gold medal game.

The United States could face Japan again for gold on Thursday. The Japanese played the Australia-Canada semifinal winner later Wednesday in the bronze-medal game, with the winner meeting the Americans.

Rocio Ybarra scored on a penalty corner in the second extra period as Spain defeated the United States 3-2 in the seventh-place game of the women's field hockey tournament. Ybarra's goal came in the 84th minute, about 90 seconds before the match would have gone to penalty strokes.

South Korea defeated Japan 2-1 in the ninth-place match. It was a disappointing finish for Japan, which was ranked No. 5 in the world.

Reigning world champions Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser will play for the gold medal in beach volleyball after they beat Georgia 21-11, 21-13 in the semifinals Wednesday in one of the quickest matches of the Olympics.

The American pair will play on Friday against Marcio and Fabio, who upset Athens gold medalists Emanuel and Ricardo 22-20, 21-18 on Wednesday to reach the final.

The win by Rogers and Dalhausser gave the United States a chance to sweep the beach volleyball gold medals in Beijing. Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor, the defending Olympic champions, will play China in the women's final on Thursday.

With only four positive doping tests so far from more than 4,000, the International Olympic Committee credited the deterrent effect for keeping drug scandals to a minimum at the Beijing Games.

IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies said that 4,133 tests had been conducted so far, including more than 3,290 urine controls and 840 blood screenings. By the end of the games on Sunday, the IOC will have carried out around 4,500 doping tests in Beijing, up from 3,600 in Athens four years ago.

Greek hurdler Fani Halkia, North Korean shooter Kim Jong Su, Spanish cyclist Isabel Moreno and Vietnamese gymnast Thi Ngan Thuong Do are the four athletes who have tested positive under the IOC's testing program.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	77	48	.616	_
Boston	73	53	.579	4 1/2
New York	66	59	.528	11
Toronto	65	60	.520	12
Baltimore	60	65	.480	17

Central Division

Chicago	72	53	.576	_
Minnesota	71	54	.568	1
Detroit	62	64	.492	10 1/2
Cleveland	57	67	.460	14 1/2
Kansas City	55	70	.440	17

West Division

Los Angeles	76	48	.613	_
Texas	62	65	.488	15 1/2
Oakland	57	68	.456	19 1/2
Seattle	46	79	.368	30 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	69	57	.548	_
Philadelphia	67	58	.536	1 1/2
Florida	65	61	.516	4
Atlanta	56	70	.444	13
Washington	44	82	.349	25

Central Division

Chicago	77	48	.616	_
Milwaukee	72	55	.567	6
St. Louis	70	58	.547	8 1/2
Houston	64	62	.508	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	57	69	.452	20 1/2
Cincinnati	55	71	.437	22 1/2

West Division

Arizona	65	60	.520	_
Los Angeles	64	61	.512	1
Colorado	58	69	.457	8
San Francisco	53	72	.424	12
San Diego	48	77	.384	17

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 5, Washington 4
N.Y. Mets 7, Atlanta 3
Chicago Cubs 5, Cincinnati 0
Houston 5, Milwaukee 2
Pittsburgh 4, St. Louis 1
Arizona 7, San Diego 6
Colorado 8, L.A. Dodgers 3
Florida 6, San Francisco 0
Boston 7, Baltimore 2
Cleveland 9, Kansas City 4
Toronto 2, N.Y. Yankees 1
Tampa Bay 4, L.A. Angels 2
Detroit 11, Texas 3
Minnesota 13, Oakland 2
Chicago White Sox 5, Seattle 0

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Medal Count

	G	S	B	Total
United States	26	26	27	79
China	44	14	19	77
Russia	12	14	18	44
Britain	16	10	10	36
Australia	11	12	12	35
France	4	12	14	30
Germany	11	8	9	28
South Korea	8	10	6	24
Japan	8	6	9	23
Italy	6	7	7	20
Ukraine	5	4	8	17
Netherlands	4	5	4	13
Canada	2	6	5	13
Cuba	1	5	5	11
Belarus	1	3	7	11
Spain	3	5	2	10
New Zealand	3	1	5	9
Romania	4	1	3	8
Poland	3	4	1	8
Kenya	2	4	2	8
Kazakhstan	1	3	4	8
Denmark	2	1	3	6
North Korea	2	1	3	6
Brazil	1	0	5	6
Czech Republic	2	3	0	5
Jamaica	2	3	0	5
Switzerland	2	0	3	5
Azerbaijan	1	2	2	5
Norway	1	2	2	5
Slovenia	1	2	2	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Hungary	0	4	1	5
Armenia	0	0	5	5
Slovakia	3	1	0	4
Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
Bulgaria	1	1	2	4
Uzbekistan	0	1	3	4
Ethiopia	2	1	0	3
Georgia	2	0	1	3
Finland	1	1	1	3
Sweden	0	3	0	3
Turkey	0	2	1	3
Austria	0	1	2	3
Greece	0	1	2	3
Lithuania	0	1	2	3
Estonia	1	1	0	2
Mongolia	1	1	0	2
Argentina	1	0	1	2
Algeria	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	1	2
Croatia	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Serbia	0	1	1	2
Chinese Taipei	0	0	2	2
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
India	1	0	0	1
Panama	1	0	0	1
Thailand	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Portugal	0	1	0	1
Singapore	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Iran	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Latvia	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
Togo	0	0	1	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top Pool Bar $1K tourney returns Saturday

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

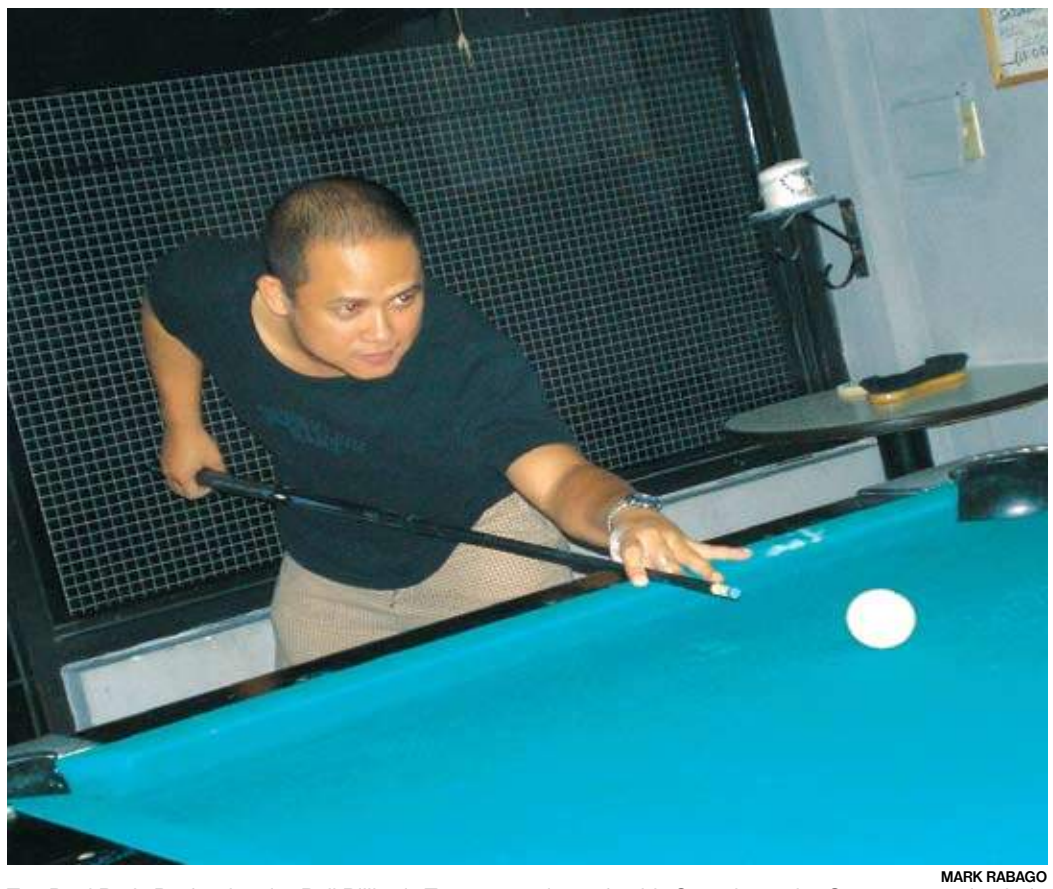
The countdown for the biggest and most expensive billiards tournament this side of the Marianas is only days away as Top Pool Bar's professional 8-ball billiards tournament breaks this Saturday.

All roads for the islands' top cue artists lead to the Garapan watering hole as a total of $1,000 is at stake in the competition.

The sports bar's manager Zheng Jian Qing is inviting the islands' best cue artists in the open competition dubbed as the Top Pool Bar Professional $1,000 8-Ball Billiards Tournament. Registration starts at 7pm with game time set an hour later at 8pm.

The $1,000 tournament kicks off with the elimination phase of the single-elimination, race-to-seven billiards competition. Slots are open for as much as 32 players.

The number of players would be whittled down to eight players in the tournament's second phase with Top Pool Bar expected to crown the champion shortly before midnight.



MARK RABAGO

Top Pool Bar's Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament is set for this Saturday at the Garapan watering hole and sports bar. Photo above shows Rolly Villanueva in a file photo from a recent tournament.

Top Pool Bar, one of the glitziest billiards halls on Saipan, is putting out all the stops in hosting one of the biggest cash prizes for a billiards tournament in the Commonwealth in the one-night pool extravaganza.

The Top 3 players get to divide the $1,000 pot. The champion takes home $500, while the first runner-up gets to line his pockets with $300. The second runner-up wins $150, while the third runner-up bags $50.

Entry fee for the $1,000 Top Pool Bar Professional Pool Tournament is $30 per person and pairings will be done through a draw.

Top Pool Bar, located along Hotel Street Garapan a stone's throw away from the Paseo de Marianas, is as spacious as it is modern and boasts of two 9-1/2-by-5-foot tables usually found in professional tournaments abroad.

Zheng also reminded interested players that early birds get a chance to practice for free on any of Top Pool Bar's full-size billiard tables an hour before the competition.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar Professional $1,000 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call Zheng at 287-7676 or check out the competition's website at www.saipanero.com/bars/toppoolbar.

Fil-Taga August Ace at Laolao west this Sunday

The Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its August Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, Aug. 24, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course in Marpi.

According to tournament director Mike Cruz, show time is set at 11am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 11:30am.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera , Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batalliones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Miller Lite Marianas Cup to play at two venues

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pacific Trading Co.'s 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier set from Aug. 22 to Aug. 24 will be played at two venues—the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Field and the Capital Hill Field.

But before all the action starts, organizers of the three-day tournament will have its final meeting today, Aug. 21, 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Coordinator Joe Salas, meanwhile, said interested teams can pick up entry forms for the modified co-ed slow-pitch competition at the Kagman Mobil gas station. He added that the organizers can entertain as much as 10 teams for the tourney.

Modified co-ed, Salas said, means that nine male and one female players must be in the field on defense at all times, while the batting lineup must include two female players.

He added that the 10-run mercy rule applies starting in the fifth inning of the competition, while the 15-run mercy rule will apply beginning in the fourth inning.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

No Ka Oi is looking to continue its tradition of winning the tournament year in and year out when the 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier set from Aug. 22 to Aug. 24 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Field and the Capital Hill Field.

PTC sales manager Mike Babauta earlier said that he expects great softball action this year with defending champion No Ka Oi looking to continue its tradition of winning the tournament year in and year out.

"They have won the last five tournaments and they are looking to repeat but other teams out there are might have other ideas," he said.

The winner of the qualifier will represent Saipan in the 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Cup Slow-pitch Softball Tournament set for Sept. 6 on Rota.

Entry fee for the qualifier is $150 and interested teams have only until today, Aug. 21, to sign up. Tournament format is modified co-ed and to spice things up, PTC will host a homerun derby for the sport's longball specialists.

For more information about the 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier, call Jovie Flores at 256-5515 or 287-5515, Joe Salas at 256-1374, or Joe Flores at 483-7834.

Last year, as aforementioned No Ka Oi earned the top seeding and the first finals berth after a three-game sweep of all its assignments.

They met Brotherhood, which beat Potbus to earn the second finals berth, in the championship game where they scored an 18-9 win.

It was the fifth straight title for No Ka Oi in the annual tournament since winning the inaugural games in 2003.

RGA sets schedule for the rest of the year

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Refaluwasch Golf Association has set its calendar for the rest of the year, which culminates with the 2008 Club Championship on Dec. 6.

Tournament director Jess Wabol said the Club Championship, which will assemble all 12 monthly champions for the season-ending competition, will be held at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville.

There is still plenty of golf to come around before the Club Championship, however, beginning with the September qualifier set either on Aug. 30 or 31 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Wabol said the reason why RGA is holding the month-end schedule open is the club still doesn't know the availability of the venue. The same is true in succeeding qualifiers and Ace of the Month Tournaments for the rest of the year.

After the September qualifier, RGA will hold the September Ace of the Month Tournament on the weekend of Sept. 13 at the same Talafofo golf venue.

The October qualifier, meanwhile, is penciled on either Sept. 26 and 27 at the COP with the October Ace of the Month set for the weekend of Oct. 11 at the Koblerville golf course.

The November qualifier follows on the weekend of Oct. 25 at the Marianas Country Club with the association scheduling the real deal, November Ace of the Month, on either Nov. 8 and 9 at the Marpi golf course.

The November Ace of the Month will also be interesting, according to Wabol, because due to time constraints RGA will also use the tournament as the qualifier for its December Ace.

The December Ace of the Month Tournament will then tee off on the weekend of Dec. 22 at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, which gives RGA players plenty of time to practice for the aforementioned Club Championship on Dec. 6.

Wabol also took time to remind Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship.

For more information about RGA's 2008 calendar of tournaments, contact RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or tournament director Jess Wabol at 233-3673.

MARK RABAGO

Refaluwasch Golf Association tournament director Jess Wabol, seen here teeing off in the 2008 Tournament of Champions, said the association's calendar for the year is out and will culminate with the Club Championship on Dec. 6.

Top Pool Bar $1K tourney returns this Saturday

The countdown for the biggest and most expensive billiards tournament this side of the Marianas is only days away as Top Pool Bar's professional 8-ball billiards tournament breaks this Saturday.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Aybar's eighth-inning single gives surging Rays a victory over Angels

Willy Aybar broke an eighth-inning tie with a two-run double for the Tampa Bay Rays to rally past the Los Angeles Angels 4-2 in the American League on Tuesday.

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Miller reaches finals in Fiji

Miller

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI Junior Tennis Team member Christian Miller made it into the finals of the junior boys division of the 2008 Oceania Plate tennis tournament at the Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre Tuesday in Lautoka, Fiji.

Miller advanced to the finals against Devin Khatri of Fiji after winning the all-CNMI semis duel with teammate Rafael Jones, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

But Miller failed to play in the finals, as he and other members of the CNMI squad had to leave Fiji early Wednesday morning to catch a return flight to Saipan.

Miller settled for a runner-up finish, while Jones finished fourth after losing also via walkover to Papua New Guinea's Robin Morove in the consolation match.

The 12-year-old Miller had a perfect record in the elimination round in the Oceania Plate. He swept his Day 1 and 2 assignments and completed a clean 5-0 record in Pool A after beating Xyril Posala of Samoa, 6-3, 6-1, Monday.

Miller claimed the No. 1 spot in Pool A, setting up a semis meeting with Jones, who was ranked second in Pool B with a 4-1 record.

Jones' lone loss in the pool was against Khatri. Jones took the opening set, 6-2, but Khatri recovered, wining the last two sets, 7-6 (5), 6-0 to foil an all-CNMI finals.

Thea Minor and Dina Jones were the two other CNMI bets who played in the Oceania Plate.

Minor competed in the seniors girls division and finished third in Pool A with a 3-2 record. Jones was also in Pool A and lost all

See MILLER on Page 26

Jones

G-Rollers I rips G-Rollers II in Rotary caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

G-Rollers I showed no love lost against G-Rollers II, hammering their sister team, 87-42, in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The much experienced G-Rollers I gave G-Rollers II players a neat basketball lesson, especially on the offensive end, scoring numerous easy layups and uncontested jumpers.

By the end of the first half, the G-Rollers I was way ahead, 35-13.

The G-Rollers II had only two players making more than one field goal in the first 20 minutes of the game with Eugene Manglona firing six points and Jerry Mabini adding five. Mike Manglona scored the G-Rollers I's other basket.

In contrast, G-Rollers I had several offensive options in the first half. Brandon Aurelio was among them, making two triples and finishing with 20 points in the first half. Manny Matagolai also had 10 points in the first half, earning most of them from short jumpers. Ed Ca-

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

G-Rollers I's Ray Babauta dribbles past a G-Rollers II defender during their game in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

See G-ROLLERS on Page 26

Stage set for Bolt's golden double at Beijing Olympics

By DENNIS PASSA
AP SPORTS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—While Olympic watchers waited Wednesday for the Usain Bolt show to begin, a marathon swimmer from Russia, a power-hitting American softball star and a Spanish field hockey player provided some of the early thrills.

Bolt, who easily won the 100-meter sprint in world record time of 9.69 seconds at the Bird's Nest last Saturday, was heavily favored to repeat his gold in the 200 later Wednesday.

If he wins both the 100 and 200, he'd be the first Olympic athlete since Carl Lewis in 1984 to achieve the feat. And Michael Johnson's 12-year-old world record of 19.32 seconds could fall in the process.

Early on the fifth-to-last day of the Beijing Games, Larisa Ilchenko drafted behind the leading British duo for most of the race before sprinting to a gold medal in the final stages of the first women's 10-kilometer marathon swim.

At the Olympic rowing basin, the Russian finished four grueling laps in 1 hour, 59 minutes, 27.7 seconds. She let leaders Keri-Anne Payne and Cassandra Patten do the hard work in front, then made her big move for the historic gold medal, reaching up to slam the yellow touchpad first.

"It doesn't bother me in the least," she said of her tactics through an in-

AP

Jamaica's Usain Bolt, center, competes in a men's 200-meter semi-final in the National Stadium at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Monday, Aug. 18, 2008. At left is Britain's Marlon Devonish and at right is Egypt's Amr Seoud.

See STAGE on Page 26

SSC resumes training with new coach

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club members buckled down to work Monday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi after a brief summer vacation.

They will start their fall training with new coach Michael Blasberg, who replaced Michael Stewart last month.

Stewart called it quits after four years at the helm of SSC's swimming program to take a new coaching post in Taos, New Mexico, but left Saipan tankers in good hands.

Blasberg

Blasberg, who teaches biology at Marianas High School, is a member of SSC Masters swim team and has been into swimming since he was nine years old.

The 23-year-old St. Paul, Minnesota, native swam competitively for clubs and school for 10 years. In Eagan High School in east central Minnesota, he was captain of the swim team in his senior year and made it to sectional finals. Blasberg switched to recreational swimming while he was studying at the University of Minnesota, as the university did not have a team swim.

Before coming to Saipan two years ago, Blasberg managed a women's high school swim team for two years

He started co-coaching SSC with Stewart midway last month to get the feel of handling about 50 swimmers and officially took the coaching reigns on July 31.

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